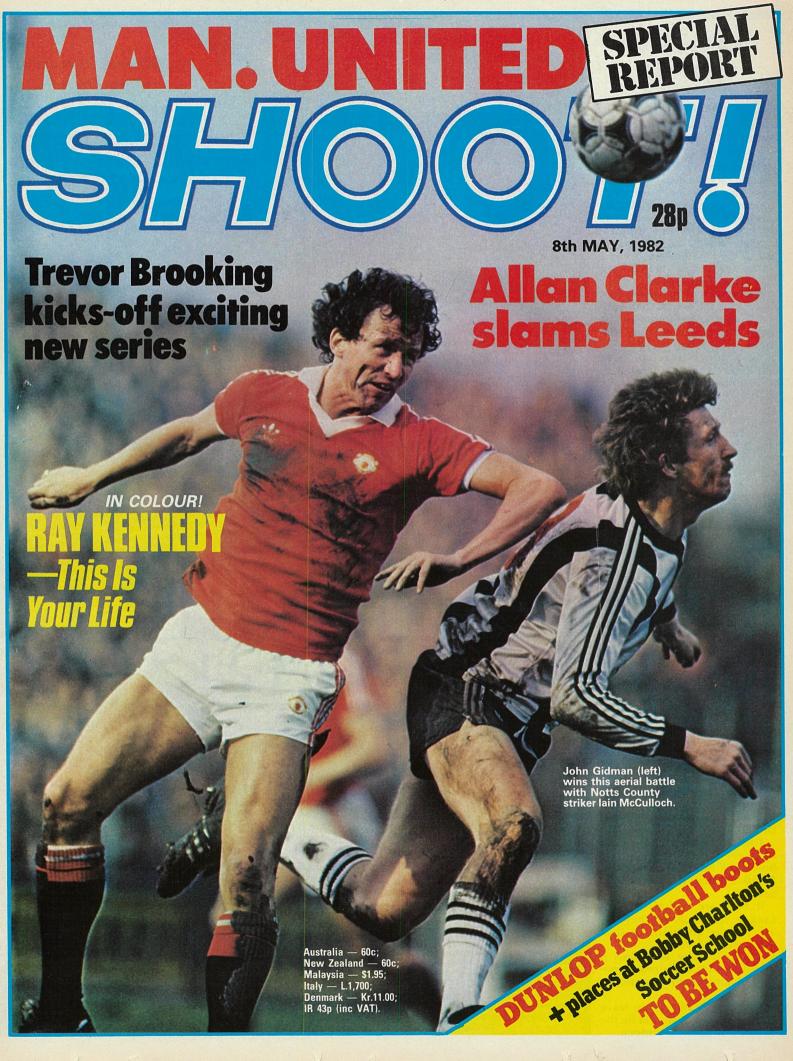
SCAN



Don't sack Murdoch

WAY back in our Sep-tember 12 issue with the season accelerating into life after the summer break, this column suggested that Bobby Murdoch's head was on the line for carrying out the Middlesbrough board's wishes to sell the club's best players.

"He might have jeopardised his future," we argued.
We added: "By selling the midfield at the end of their contracts, the engine room of the side, and failing to plug the gaps caused by departures, Middlesbrough seem to have suffered from an acute bout of mid-summer madness."

The comment was offered after Middlesbrough had parted with Mark Proctor, to Notting-ham Forest, and David Armstrong, to Southampton. Bosco Jankovic, Middlesbrough's leading scorer with 13 goals the previous season, had also been released.

They had bade farewell to Ayresome Park in the wake of Craig Johnston, who was sold to Liverpool in the Spring of 1981, and Graeme Souness to the same club in 1978.

How could a club possibly hope to pitch for the First Division title unless such a star array of departing talent could be re-placed with players of equal calibre, we asked.

Our fears were soundly based, for Middlesbrough have never climbed above 18th position all season.

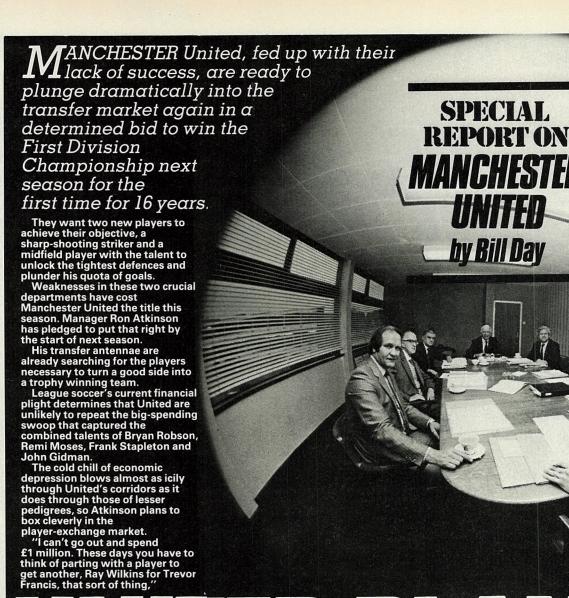
Their plight is a tragedy and an indictment of an unambitious board who hardly deserve to be in charge of a First Division club.

Today, maybe tomorrow, or next week, or next month, the board will hold an inquest into Middlesbrough's disastrous season.

If they are typical of most League club boards, they will ask serious questions of their manager's record.

The difference this time is that they should be more concerned about their own perfor-

If anyone is allowed to leave Middlesbrough it should be the board, not Bobby Murdoch.



explains big Ron, grinning impishly at the wickedness of his remark spoken in the privacy of his panelled office not more than a 30 minute bus ride from Manchester

City's ground.
Only that very morning,
backroom staff at Old Trafford had
been chuckling at the latest
anti-City joke. It suggests that
John Bond was buying Ossie Ardiles to establish a blockade around a Joe Corrigan goal which had leaked nine goals in two

games.

"Hey, don't go away with the impression I'm parting with Wilkins," emphasised the manager, pointing out that his captain's name was used purely to illustrate the point about player-exchange.

player-exchange.
Ron Atkinson, brave and ambitious in a world that can make monkeys out of the mighty overnight, is not searching for scapegoats to explain United's loss of momentum after leading the First Division from the end of October to early December, and October to early December, and

THETARGET

First Division Championship 1983

European Cup 1984

briefly again in late January.
Nor does he hide from the truth, that United's title challenge lost momentum when the goals dried up from their two £1 million strikers, Frank Stapleton and Garry Birtles.
Stapleton's one goal in a 15-game spell in the second half of the season and Birtles' barren run in March and April blunted United's thrust more than any

United's thrust more than any other factor.

Scott McGarvey is still battling to make the big breakthrough at Old Trafford.



Frank Stapleton is too anxious about his goal drought?

should have beaten them. Ray played five balls through their

played five balls through their defence to set up goalscoring chances. They all went begging. "Frank's got a bit anxious he hasn't scored goals. The trouble is that when a striker gets anxious he makes mistakes. He's just got to keep persevering. That lad's one of the League's best players, look at his record

the League's best players, look at his record.

"He needs someone to share the load. Garry had a good run but recently he's been out injured. You need fewer goals to win the Championship than you did ten years ago — but you've still got to score 'em."

So who will Manchester United buy to strengthen the squad?

Ron Atkinson is keeping his cards close to his chest. Trevor Francis? He grins. Which midfield man would suit United? Glenn Hoddle? Atkinson will not be

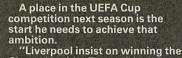
drawn. "I wanted Frank Worthington

when he became available," he admits. "Just the sort of player who would have lifted

the squad.
"I'm not one to
blame injuries on poor results.

United missed 'sneak-thief' Lou Macari.

and others gave us charisma?



Championship. For me it's the European Cup. Why? Because to win that you have to win the First Division."

His modest start to soccer management at Kettering Town and Cambridge United has given him the background he believes is necessary to cope with the razzamatazz of running one of the world's greatest clubs.

Asked whether he is somewhat overawed by what is expected of him, he grins: "I love it, I'm excited, but no more excited than I was at Kettering."

Atkinson could be forgiven for wanting to breeze through Old Trafford's luxurious restaurant

suites, offices and boardroom to rip down portraits of players from

United's glorious past.

Duncan Edwards, who died tragically after the Munich air

Edwards, Charlton

crash, is still very much "alive" at the club. In oils, or water-colours or simple prints, he drives massively forward across the Old Trafford turf.

There is his old United and England team-mate Tommy Taylor, also killed at Munich, Bobby Charlton, George Best, Denis Law.

"Pull them down? Heaven help us," says big Ron in astonishment at the very thought of destroying

at the very thought of destroying golden post-War history.

"They are the players who gave this club charisma. They gave us standards to follow. It's up to me to bring the best out of my squad."

As his first year draws to an end—he was appointed last June—he believes he has made marked progress after being charged with the responsibility of boosting gates and putting Manchester United back on the map.



The legendary Duncan Edwards.

By early April they averaged home gates of 44,000, 10,000 more

than Liverpool. Their Championship challenge has been maintained over many weeks rather than last season's late run with little

prospect of winning the title. United's genial boss confesses to another satisfying achievement, the remarkable progress made by

Made by
Old Trafford's lesser lights,
including Kevin Moran ("I pencil
his name in ahead of McQueen and
Buchan"), Arthur Albiston ("I can't
understand why Jock Stein
doesn't cap him"), and John
Cidnary Gidman.

"If I can bring on a youngster or two, make progress with the men I've got, and add a dash of colour, we can win the Championship next season, and the European

Cup the season after."
For once, Ron Atkinson is not

NEXT WEEK: Manchester United's exciting plans

"That's what's been wrong with us, as simple as that," argues Atkinson. "Sad really, because Frank and Garry started with 20 goals between them in the first 20 League games, a good average. "You can accommodate a hiccup from your strikers if other players are scoring goals, but they haven't. I've wanted more goals from my midfield men."

Ashley Grimes was the only

Ashley Grimes was the only midfield player, excluding the more attacking Steve Coppell, to score a goal between February 6

and April 19.

"Robson has got into more goal scoring positions in six games recently than he made in the whole of last season at West Bromwich Albion, but the goals

haven't come.
"I want Wilkins to get goals. He scored them for Chelsea, why can't he here? Ray has a great shot in both feet and to be fair he has got forward much more this season.

"He's been good for us, I must stress that. He was brilliant in our home game against Liverpool. We

l have to say, though, that Martin Buchan, Gordon McQueen, Garry Birtles, Lou Macari and others have been

"I'm convinced that if Macari
had been fit we'de have had a
better home record. He's a
sneak-thief, the difference
between drawing 0-0 and winning
1-0. I've missed Lou."

Glasgow-born Scott McGarvey, a striker many predict will one day play for Scotland, has been thrust into the breach with moderate success. His talents are obvious but it takes more than an eye for goals to unlock First Division

defences.
"He's only 18 — and needs time to adapt to the demands of first team football," stresses United's

boss.

That is why he might well have to pull off another transfer swoop in the interim period before McGarvey and other bright young prospects such as Irish striker Norman Whiteside, Kenny Scott, another Irishman, Billy Garton and Graham Hogg prove they have the skill and endeavour to make the grade

Ron Atkinson's firm ambition is to win the European Cup. Even as manager he finds it hard to believe that United's record in Europe has been so poor since their heady moment of triumph against Benfica in the European Cup Final 14 vears ago.

BRIAN CLOUGH has been singing the praises of lan Bowyer's form at left-back, but the Forest star would still like to revert to the midfield spot where he operated so effectively during his first spell at the City Ground.

"I had a feeling when I came back from Sunderland the management wanted me to play at

back from Sunderland the management wanted me to play at the back," said Bowyer.

"Just because I'm playing fullback doesn't mean I've forgotten about midfield. I feel I could still do a job there."

Bowyer, 30, is happy to be playing at all. Last year he lay in a Sunderland hospital after a knee ligament operation fearing for his future.

"Playing in defence means I have to use my experience. I've never had too much pace so I try to get myself into positions where opponents can't run at

McAlle hits out at plastic pitch...

JOHN McALLE, one of the game's most respected defenders, didn't mince his words when describing QPR's controversial plastic pitch.

McAlle, while on loan at Derby, said: "I'm glad my career is nearing its end. "I wouldn't like to have to play on pitches like that if they are going to be the accepted surface in four or five years time.

"That's not the football I know. It's all about balance. You can't get stuck in." And that wasn't sour grapes about Derby's 3-0 defeat.



CRIPPLED BROWN SUES

IN the first case brought by a player in Scotland against another, Dunfermline Athletic skipper Jim Brown is to sue St Johnstone winger John Pelosi for injuries received during a First Division League game at East End Park, Dunfermline, last November.

Brown, who was previously with Hibs and Hearts, will never play again as a result of severe injuries to his leg. Following the incident Pelosi was ordered off and

subsequently suspended for six months by the Scottish Football Association.

TALBOT

MANY players moan when they're not in the first team so it was refreshing to hear Gerry Daly's attitude towards being kept in the Coventry reserves.

"I've had a frustrating season with injuries," he said. "Although I feel 100 per cent fit now, I don't blame Dave Sexton for leaving me out.

"I have no divine right to a first team place. If I were the manager I wouldn't pick me.

"The youngsters have done well and it would be wrong if they were dropped after putting together some good performances."

but Hazell loves it

QPR manager Terry Venables knows that big defender Bob Hazell is one of the most popular players down at Loftus Road.

But Bob hasn't been getting a regular run. Venables says: "Bob's been outstanding at home. His game is suited to our plastic pitch. It was as if the pitch was made for him. But he hasn't been so god away from home."

was made for him. But he hasn't been so good away from home."
That's why Ernie Howe has been holding down a regular spot.
Hazell took his chance well when Howe was sick, scoring one goal (above) and stopping the Derby attack. "I would love to run with the ball but! know I must try and lay it off if somebody is in a better position. "But it is difficult. If I listened to the crowd. I would probably get the crowd, I would probably get caught in no-mans land. But it's great to know I'm popular."



McILROY RECORD

SAMMY McILROY could become Northern Ireland's most-capped outfield player during the World Cup Finals. The Stoke City ace, capped 50-plus times in his

Manchester United career, is only half-a-dozen games away from surpassing Terry Neill's 59-cap all-time record for a Northern Ireland outfielder.

Schemer-cum-scorer Sammy still has some way to go, though, to catch Pat Jennings' overall

-for 30 years!

AN amateur footballer who plays in all things the Edinburgh Churches Sunday League has been banned until the year 2012.

The 30 year ban was imposed by league officials after the player was found guilty of assaulting a referee during a cup tie when his team were leading by four goals. The team were censured and the tie awarded to their opponents. The name of the player has not been revealed by the league who hope their action will be a warning to others. action will be a warning to others.

HEN the British Airways jumbo BA73 lifted from Heathrow on its 11hour journey to Toronto it was carrying a sad passenger from a glorious past into an uncertain future.

The red, mop-hair of forgotten hero Dave Fairclough, Liverpool's supersub, was straddled by earphones plugged into the big jet's in-flight disco music system.

A little more than £150,000 changed hands between Toronto Blizzard and Bob Paisley's European Champions — and the reluctant kid with a gift for great goals started his Trans-Atlantic

The gifted 25-year-old's knack of match winning shooting deserted him after a leg injury that kept him out of the running at Anfield for 14 months.

Fiery

And when he was fit again, he found his chances of first team soccer had been reduced by the incredible goalscoring form of new boy Ian Rush.

Big clubs had tried to persuade Liverpool to sell the fiery-haired kid, but he preferred to make it to the top with his beloved reds.

Then came the knee trouble that sabotaged his hopes.

The comeback trail will take him through Canada and the North American Soccer League. And, unlike so many before him, he's not a player

simply chasing easy money . . . "I'm determined to give it 100 per cent," he said, "because I'm out to prove to Bob Paisley that I could still do it for Liverpool. I'm still hoping that he might have me back at the end of my term with Blizzard.

"I'd love to come back to Anfield . . . and to a first team place with the greatest team in the world."

Paisley's parting words were: "Dave was terribly unlucky. He was the sort who could score goals, but just when he was establishing himself he suffered a cartilage injury.

FULHAM'S future opponents could well experience double trouble when they play the Craven Cottagers.

For the West London club have signed identical twins — 15-years-old

Paul Byrne, a defender and Steven, a midfielder — on associated schoolboy forms. Many older SHOOT readers may remember the last pair of identical twins to cause confusion to fans, commentators and opposing defences — the Morgan twins, lan and Roger, who both played up front for QPR in the 1960s.

NORTHERN IRELAND will spend the fortnight prior to their departure for the World Cup Finals in the Brighton area.

In fact, Billy Bingham's men will complete their pre-tournament build-up at the Sussex University Sports Complex, before leaving for Spain on June 13.

MORTON netted £400,000 from the sale of central defender Neil Orr to West Ham — and

they've spent £25,000 to replace him! Former Celtic midfield man Jim Duffy is their new recruit and Cappielow boss Benny Rooney says: "I tried over a year ago to sign

"It was always on the cards that we would sell Neil or Joe McLaughlin. Now Jim will partner Joe at the back and I'm sure they'll be a good partnership."

Scott shakes off Blues boos

GEOFF SCOTT will soon know whether Ron Saunders plans to keep him at St Andrews, or whether the centre-half will return to Leicester when his loan period with Birmingham

It's not been easy for Scott as Blues struggle against relegation and he hasn't been helped by the reaction of a section of the crowd after a mistake led to a goal against

Everton recently.

"I couldn't help but hear some of the comments that were said. It was the last thing I needed with so much at

"Some were saying 'get back to Leicester' — it's the first time I've ever had abuse from the terraces. It's worrying because I've seen players crucified

by supporters.
"I accept fans pay my wages, but I hope my shoulders are broad enough to take the

ANOTHER TWO packets of ESPANA 82 World Cup Album will be given away FREE with next week's issue.

You can then buy more stickers from many newsagents in packets of four for 6p until you have collected the complete set of 427.

Free stickers will only be given way with SHOOT dated the week endir g May 8th and May 15th.

Don't forget that you can swop "doubles" with your

swop "d friends.

We regret that overseas readers are not able to share in this scheme which applies to the United King-dom and Republic of Ireland only. Good collecting . .

Teler Stewar

FIVE YEARS ago Johnny Giles returned home to Ireland to take charge of Shamrock Rovers. It was Giles' aim to make Rovers a force in Europe with a team of full-time professionals.

Now because of failing attendances Rovers will be reverting to part-timers next

Apart from a Cup success in 1978 Giles' young side have not won anything of note. Now Rovers will probably have to do what most other Irish clubs do - sell to survive.

Briefly

When Notts County trainer Jack Wheeler was performing his duties at Liverpool recently it was the 1,100th consecutive League match he has attended with the Meadow Lane club.

These League matches cover a span of 25 years and during that time 62-year-old Wheeler has had two spells as caretaker manager.

• Mail is still being sent to Ron Saunders at Aston Villa, even though he became manager of Birmingham City a couple of months ago. Someone at Villa has been writing 'Gone

Away' on the envelopes and returning them to

● The testimonial match for Burnley goalkeeper Alan Stevenson between his club and Manchester City at Turf Moor raised

'BROOKING IS BONE IDLE' -Hibbitt

YOU'D be hard pushed to find many people in soccer who have harsh words to say about West Ham and England midfielder Trevor Brooking, the original Mr.

Nice Guy.
But while Wolves midfield man Kenny Hibbitt (right) confesses to be "one of Trevor's greatest admirers", the Molineux star also says: "Trevor is bone idle.
"It was sad to discover this

when we played at Upton Park

recently.
"When we were on the attack,

Trevor sat back happy to let Paul
Allen do all the donkey work in midfield.
"Paul ran himself into the ground over 90 minutes, but Trevor simply didn't bother.

There's no excuse for his laziness, and it worries me when I think of the testing time England will have in the World Cup Finals.





Security

My father wanted me to have the security of an education behind me so I stayed on the extra year and passed seven GCE 'O Levels. People think I got more at school, but it was later, at dayrelease college that I collected another five 'O' Levels and two 'A' Levels.

I believe all young players should aim to have a second career in case their football ambitions do not materialise. Don't forget that a staggering 75 per cent of the boys who come into the game at the age I began fail to make the grade.

Having said that, however, I made a mistake going into business outside the game as early as I did. At 21 I became involved in a book-binding business.

As it turned out I was lucky my career has been spent with one club. But at that age no player knows where his future lies. Hungarians.

But from all these great moments I must select the 1980



new series

A key member of Ron Green-wood's World Cup squad, Brook-ing is a one club man who has made more than 500 senior appearances for the club he supported as a schoolboy. Here he reveals aspects of his life known to few people outside of

Cup Final. We were expected to beat Second Division Fulham in 1975, but the roles were reversed in 1980, with Arsenal red-hot favourites in their third successive

Beating them was an unforgettable experience, but for me to score the only goal . . . with my head . . . well, it is virtually impossible for me to forget, or top, that day.

My worst moment

Dropping into Division Two'

'When West Ham United went down in 1978 my world turned on its head. I made little of it at the time and tried to play down the awful disappointment. But it was a terrible experience and one I wish on no player.

Our final game, at home to Liverpool, ended in a 2-0 defeat. I walked off knowing it could be years before I faced such

opposition in the League.
Players genuinely do feel for their fans. Ours are a bit special and we felt very depressed for them as well as for ourselves.

My worry was that I might lose my international place while playing in the Second Division. Then came the speculation about a transfer. I suffered sleepless nights during that time.

Difficult

It took me a while to adjust to the game in Division Two. It is true that midfield play is less evident. A lot of sides by-pass it with the long ball and for me, this was difficult to accept. But our time out of the First Division did us good.

We became stronger physically and combined our traditional style with a competitive attitude. Without this no side can win promotion.

Ironically I doubt if we would have reached the 1980 F.A. Cup Final if we had not been developing into such a consistent side in Division Two. But for all that I was overjoyed when we came up again in 1981.

There was talk of my leaving West Ham. I did not want to, and when Ron Greenwood assured me that playing out of the First Division would not be detrimental to my England career - he stressed that my playing form was what mattered, not where I was showing it — I was only too glad to carry on with my only club.

Training secrets

"Doggies" Make Me Sharper'

'I am not a naturally fit player. There are lads at West Ham who can come back after three weeks sidelined through injury and be as sharp as when they were playing before. But not me.

I don't really enjoy training, but it is part of my job and I know that it is something every player needs. But there are individual aspects

of training also. In my case I always work on acceleration. I used to be very long-striding. This running style covers the yards, but prevents you from producing real bursts of pace.

As a midfield player I need that

The state of the game

Hooligans a Menace'

'There are basic problems in football, but there are no instant solutions.

Hooligans are a menace. But they are a symptom of our society, not of the game.

The crime figures and the social problems bear out my belief that

Hooligans on the terraces are driving the fans away from football and threatening the entire future of the



problems.

improve.

The men who shout for more

entertainment, more carefree play, are the same men who sack

managers when results are bad.

It is a vicious circle. Managers

I believe, however, that we can

all get a little hysterical over these

If we can remove the hooligan

element and improve the game as a spectacle, the situation will

must achieve success, players

must achieve results and the

public must be entertained.

Trevor sharpens up his ball skills with his West Ham and England team-mate Alan Devonshire



extra sharpness over ten to 15 yards, so when training is finished I go and do "doggies", short sprints to markers and back that, to be honest, take it out of me.

As a youngster I was always teen to have a ball at my feet. When training was over I used to set myself tests and I believe they helped me to improve my control and my ability to shield the ball from opponents.

I would play first-time passes off a wall, attempt to dribble the ball between two straight, narrow lines then see how many times I could keep the ball off the ground, switching feet and controlling the ball off a wall coming at me from different angles.

You never stop learning in football. And my little extra stints do make a lot of difference to my



Current West Ham boss John Lyall has had a big influence on Trevor's career.

thugs use football as their stage. It is in homes and schools that hooligans must be dealt with. Waiting until they are warring on the terraces is the biggest single

mistake being made. On the field it boils down to entertainment. The public, with more alternatives these days. demand value for money. Frankly, not enough teams are providing that value.

Just look at this season's attendances. They have been dropping over the past decade, but this season they have plunged. But don't take the easy way out

by blaming players and managers.

Lessons I have learned

'Control My Temper'

I have been fortunate in that my involvement with managers at club level has concerned Ron Greenwood and John Lyall. Both men share a genuine love of football and a philosophy about how it should be played. But I have learned from both

men in other areas, also. I have a boiling point as much as the next man. But discipline at West Ham is strict. Misbehaviour on the field is not tolerated, so the players learn early on that they have to curb their tempers.

Perhaps the biggest lesson I learned as a player dates back to being a teenage caddy at a pro-am golf tournament. I saw a leading First Division player snub a group of autograph hunters and I watched their disappointment, their disillusionment and instant loss of respect.

I know from experience that the player probably had an off-day; we all have them.

But in this game you cannot afford to show the fact.

The public may only see you on that one occasion and they will remember you as a sour, off-hand character. I always make a point of signing because I know that the time to worry is when they stop asking.'

NEXT WEEK: THE MANAGER DAVE SEXTON







Aladdin's Cave

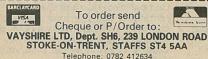
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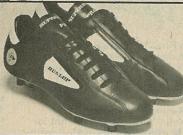


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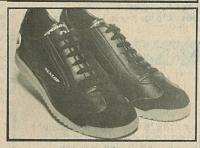
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Write the key letters of the features — in ink — in the spaces on your entry coupon (see below), each under its order of choice. For example, if you consider 'Modern stream-lined styling' is the most important of them all, put B in the first space; the letter of your next choice goes under 2nd, and so on for all eight.

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SHOOT/DUNLOP COMPETITION, LAVINGTON HOUSE, 25 LAVINGTON STREET, LONDON, SE1 0PF, to arrive

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Before sealing, copy out — on the outside back of the envelope — the eight key letters in exactly the same order as they appear on your completed coupon. YOUR ENTRY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IF THIS IS NOT DONE. Do not enclose any correspondence or matter other than the coupon.

RULES

The competition is open to all boys aged 10-16 years, inclusive, on the closing date who are resident in the U.K. and Eire other than children of employees of IPC Magazines Ltd, Dunlop and their publicity agents, the Bobby Charlton Soccer School or the printers of SH00T.

All accepted entries will be examined, and the 1st prizes awarded to the three entrants who have, in the opinion of the judges, shown the

greatest skill and judgment in placing the listed features of Dunlop Superstar football boots in order of importance. Remaining prizes will be awarded for next best attempts in order of merit. All prizes must be accepted as offered — there can be no alternative awards, cash or otherwise. The 1st-prizewinners must supply parental consent before the prizes can be awarded.

In the event of a tie for any prize(s), those tying will take part in a post eliminating contest to determine the winner(s) or winning order. Entries arriving after the closing date or received incomplete, illegible, mutilated or altered or in any other way not complying exactly with the instructions and rules will be disqualified. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost or delayed in the post or elsewhere.

Decisions of the judges, and of the Editor in all other matters affecting the competition will be final and legally binding. No correspondence can be entered into.

will be notified, and the result will be published later in

SHOOT/DUNLOP COMPETITION

AGE
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players. D. Snug fitting for "feel" of the hall

E. Quality soft leather uppers. J. Two colour sole designed with safety studs. K. Contoured sole in flexible

lightweight nylon. L. Well 'rounded' heel with strong heel cup to hold foot GLOUGH WRONG FOR ENGLAND JOB'

BRIAN Clough for England? Judging by what I read and hear, there's a lot of growing support in favour of the Nottingham Forest manager taking over from Ron Greenwood when he leaves the England post after the World Cup Finals.

But I'm not amongst the Clough backers. For me, he's not the man for the job!

What's needed is continuity. Now that England has regained the world respect it lost under Don Revie, it's important to keep things running on the same lines. A man in the Ron Greenwood mould is called for and for my money it's got to be Bobby Robson of Ipswich.

Marvellous

No disrespect to Brian Clough. He's made a marvellous job of making Nottingham Forest a real force to be reckoned with.

But there's a lot more to the England job than team building. The man has to be a diplomat, accepted by the top brass at the F.A. and international associations, and to get on well with the club bosses to ensure their co-operation when it





comes to the release of players.

Brian Clough tends to go his own way and sometimes gets involved in argy-bargy. Ron Greenwood has always avoided controversy and whenever something tricky has come up has settled things discreetly, behind the scenes.

Bobby Robson is no carbon copy. He's his own man, but he shares many of the same qualities and holds the same views on how the game should be played.

He's worked wonders with limited resources at Portman Road, shrewdly picking his players and welding them into an attack-minded team that gets results and entertains the fans.

I've always said that if I hadn't had the fortune to become a Liverpool player, Ipswich would be my second choice because it's based on similar lines.

Ron Greenwood briefs Paul Mariner and Trevor Francis in training.

Bobby Robson is already part of the England set-up, running the "B" team with Don Howe, and it would be a natural move for him to step up into Ron's shoes.

The only England "B" cap I possess I won under Bobby Robson, who really impressed me with his preparation for the match. We were playing West Germany away, it was snowing, and the opposition were going through a good spell, unbeaten in around ten games.

Bobby paid us the compliment of

treating us as professionals and not overloading us with tactical advice. 'You know what you've got to do. Forget the conditions. Forget about a draw. Go out and win - and enjoy

We did just that, beating the West Germans 2-1 and giving ourselves a

big morale-boost at the same time. Bobby and Don Howe make a great combination, and I'd like to see the Arsenal man move up with Bobby, as I believe the job of running the England show has now grown so big and complicated it calls for two men working closely together.

Another name I've heard mentioned as Ron's successor is that of

my own manager, Bob Paisley.
I don't think he'd be interested. Liverpool through and through, it's his ambition to stay with the club.

Summons

If Bobby Robson doesn't get the summons, then I'd like to see the job go to Southampton manager Lawrie McMenemy, a man who always seems to get the best out of a player.

He's a real one-off. His background is so different from other top managers.

He's never played League foot-ball, although he was on the books of Newcastle and Gateshead, before joining Doncaster and then Grimsby as manager, taking them both to Fourth Division Championships before being snapped up by Southampton.

In a recent issue of SHOOT, Manchester City's manager, John Bond, put himself up as a candidate. I'd give him an outside chance.

He's always been in favour of attacking football, but his clubs haven't had the players to fulfil his policy. With England he'd have his pick, and we'd certainly have an entertaining side.

He'd enjoy the same respect as Ron Greenwood.

No one appreciates more than us how much Ron has done to pull England from under the black cloud left by Don Revie, restore our pride, and lift us into a place amongst the World Cup Finalists.

It's no secret Ron was on the verge of resigning after our 3-1 win in Hungary last summer, following a shock defeat by Switzerland which had brought a hail of criticism down on his head.

We players felt it unjustified and unfair. Any blame lay on our shoulders, not his.

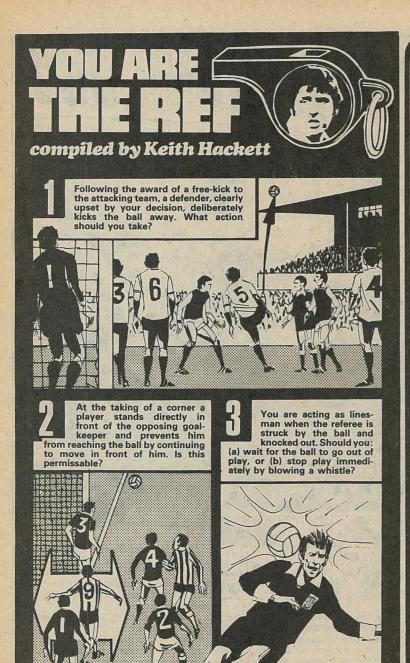
Although I don't fancy Brian Clough for England, I respect him at club level and any team he fields must be taken seriously.

Forest are going through a rebuilding period, something which their fans don't appreciate. When we beat them 2-0 at the City Ground, I sympathised with the Forest players when their fans got on their backs.

This Saturday, at Anfield, they'll give us a difficult 90 minutes.

But they won't stop us going on to win the Championship.





MATCH POINT

This week I thought I'd talk about the referee's duties before a This week I thought I'd talk about the referee's duties before a League game starts. I always arrive at the ground at least two hours before kick-off to meet the groundsman and inspect the pitch. This way there is plenty of time should the lines need marking out again. I'll also check the nets and discuss with my linesmen which wings they should patrol. At grounds such as Wolves, where the seats in the stand are red, I will always have the linesman with the yellow flag on that side of the pitch. 30 minutes before kick-off the club officials will bring us the team sheets then I'll discuss with my linesmen exactly what help I will expect from them. 15 minutes before kick-off my linesmen will check all the players studs and with five minutes to go the bell rings to signal us players studs and with five minutes to go the bell rings to signal us out for action

ANSWERS

linesmen do not carry whistles, you can enter the field of play and use the ref's. Readers may remember when Bobby Moore actually stopped play when the referee was knocked unconscious.

1. The player is guilty of dissent and are abourd be cautioned. Referees will always take firm action in this increason. S. Wo You should award an indirect free-kick to the defending team. 3. Stop play immediately by blowing a whistle (b). Although



"I know we were favourites with a lot of people to go straight back down to the Second Division," he says, "but I bet they're not so sure now after some of the results we have achieved.

"I was like a lot of the players in that I took time to adjust to the pace of the First Division. That was the main difference but gradually

we got used to it.

"We're a side with a lot of skill. Lads like Tristan Benjamin, Paul Hooks, Pedro Richards and lain McCulloch, to name but a few, are all good enough to play for their countries. And if I can maintain a good level of consistency I'm hoping Jock Stein might give me a chance.

County boss Sirrel has worked on a shoestring wonders

Meadow Lane. He says: "You only have to look at our crowds to see why we can't go mad with our money. It has always been our way to balance the books at the same time as building a side and we're quite satisfied with what's happening."

Sirrel has led his side to some memorable triumphs this term,



says Notts County's GORDON MAIR

GORDON Mair has woken none more so than the 2-0 success over more affluent neighbours Nottingham Forest at the City Ground role in helping Notts County establish themselves in the First Division.

Mair has bounced back from injury and his confidence has soared to the point where he says: "Now I've set my sights on winning international honours."

It was in September, 1980, that the talented winger's problems

began. He injured a knee in the 1-1 away draw with Swansea City, a cartilage operation was required and Mair wasn't seen for the rest of County's promotion-winning cam-

But now he has roared back to form and County boss Jimmy Sir-rel says: "Gordon had a terrible time last season, but the way he has played since the turn of the year must be a terrific boost to his confidence.

He has a lot of talent and now we're seeing it come out. He has really turned it on with a ven-geance in some of our games and it's terrific to see him back in action.

Mair, a Scot whose debut for The Magpies was almost six years ago when he was only 17, puts his own return to form down to the fact that his team-mates have been displaying so much confi-

Ground.

So often the poor relations of Nottingham, the bold County went on to record another notable victory in their next away fixture at lpswich Town when it was Mair

who put them in control with one of The Magpies' best-ever goals.
"It's the best goal I have ever scored," says Mair, "and I just couldn't believe it when I saw it on television the next day. We must have put together ten passes before I shot past Paul Cooper.

'Enjoy'

"But that shows the confidence in the side. The boss told us to go out and enjoy ourselves against lpswich. He said if we did that and worked hard we would get the right result. That's just how it turned out.

"But these results aren't just flashes in the pan. We've com-pleted the double over the Champions, Aston Villa, drawn with the likes of Spurs and Southampton, beaten Arsenal and hit five goals away from home at Coventry.

"Obviously we've had our setbacks too and we must try to be

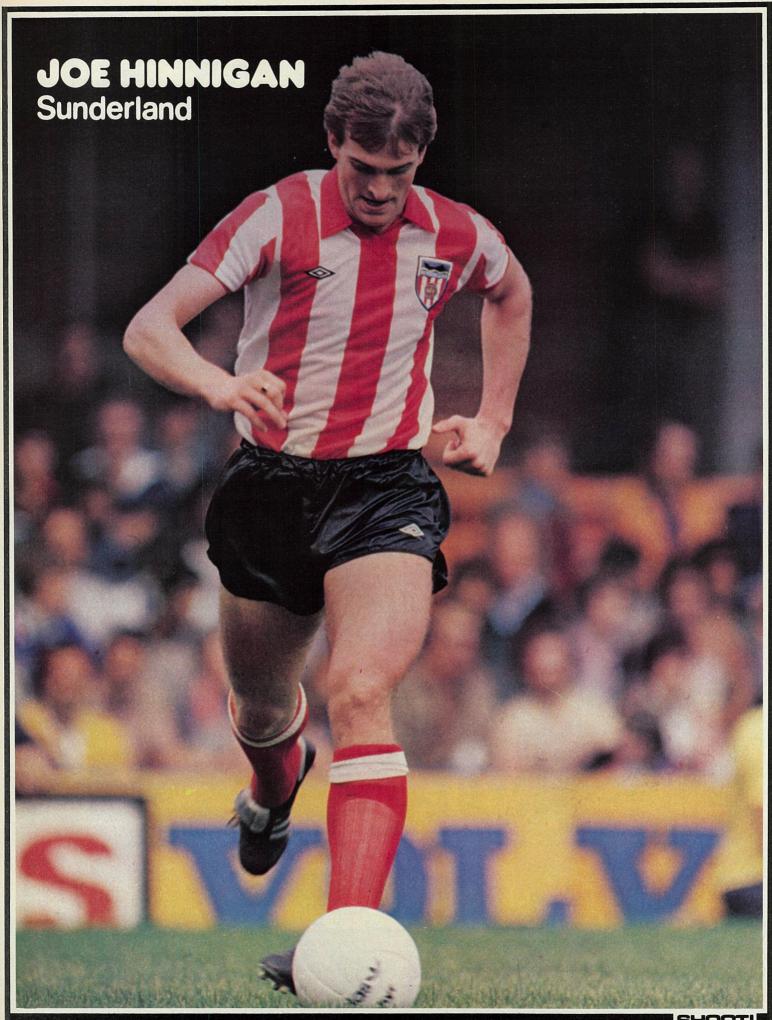
more consistent. But we're on the right lines and everyone at this club is determined that now we're in the First Division at last, we're

here to stay.

The perfect penalty from Ipswich's John Wark. Hard, low and with the 'keeper going the wrong way. The victim in this case is Liverpool's Bruce Grobbelaar. Coventry's Jim Blyth guesses right but is still unable to get his hands to Aston Villa's Gordon Cowans' well-placed spot kick.

The brilliance of Nottingham Forest 'keeper Pete Shilton is enough to foil even the accuracy of Tottenham's dead-ball expert Glenn Hoddle.

SAVED! Aberdeen goalkeeper Jim Leighton is spot on with his judgment as he dives to save this penalty from Rangers' young striker John McDonald.



ANTO SPAIN

WATCH how he beats two defenders in the tightest of spaces. Watch how he finds space in midfield to receive clearances and launch lightning-fast counter-attacks. Watch his intelligent, cheeky finishing. And watch the way he struggles to control his explosive temperament. Juan Gomez, alias Juanito, is 5ft 6ins of pure talent, and the Real Madrid

winger must rate among the best in Europe.

He comes from Fuengirola on the Costa del Sol, and if you've ever spent a holiday there you may have met his father, who runs a cafe on the beach.

Juan, born on November 10th, 1954, was the oldest of five children, and began his career with the local side before attracting the attention of mighty Atletico Madrid.

But Juanito was discarded after breaking a leg and made a new start with Second Division

Burgos.

He starred in the club's promotion campaign; played superbly in the First Division; and in 1977 was snapped up for £255,000 by Real Madrid.

In the meantime, he'd picked up the first of his 30 international caps against Yugoslavia in 1976, and wore Spain's number eight shirt in the 1978 World Cup Finals.

Since then, his greatest handicap has been his temper (UEFA even banned him for more than a year after he'd allegedly butted a referee) and his outspoken comments on the game. He's tried all sorts of tricks to curb his temper, and his latest is to drop to his knees. "It's hard to do anything stupid in that position!" he laughs.

ramaz shengalia

THE Gerd Muller of Russian football' was named Footballer of the Year in the USSR last year, and topped the scoring charts with 23 goals to his credit.

The chunky, dark-haired striker also hit four goals in the Russians' qualifying campaign, including two vital efforts against the Czechs, and the Scots will have to be on their toes to combat the twin threat of Shengalia and Blokhin.

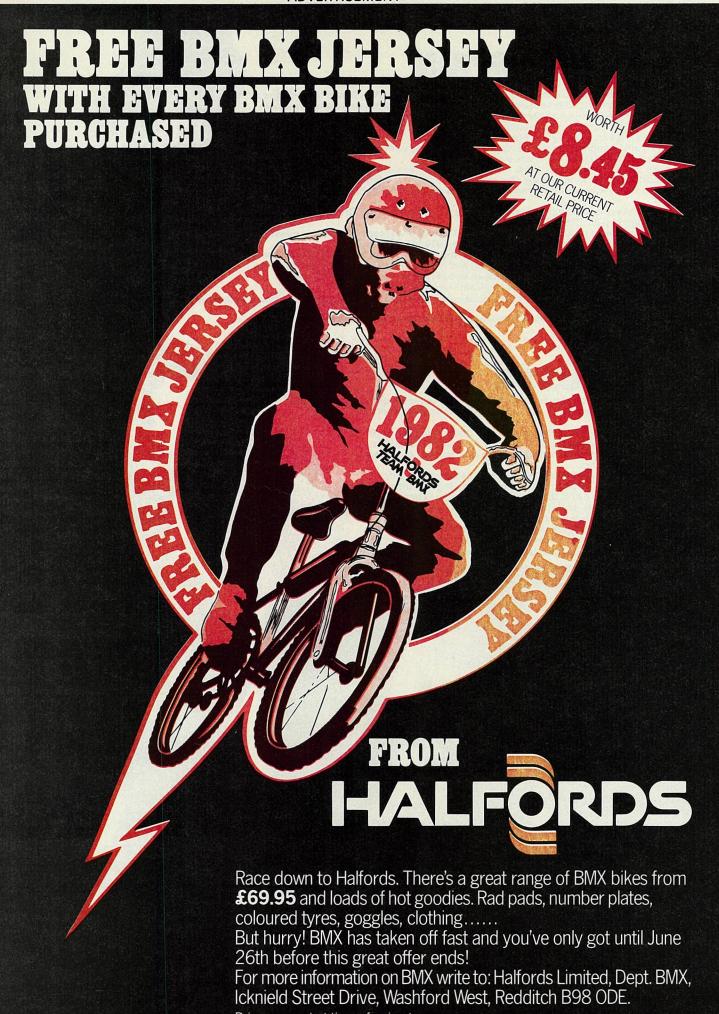
The 24-year-old physical education teacher (below, white strip) began his career with Torpedo Kutaissi before joining his current club Dynamo Tbilisi, where he hit the international headlines last year while contributing vital goals to the Russian club's exhilarating surge to victory in the Cup-Winners' Cup.

In Spain, watch for his aggressive sprinting, power shooting and amazing heading ability for a man of only medium height.









Prices correct at time of going to press.

Political football



I THINK it is shocking that Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa (above) have suffered

and Ricky Villa (above) have suffered crowd abuse because of the situation in the Falkland Isles.

Now there is talk of the British nations pulling out of the World CupFinals because of the crisis.

They shouldn't even consider such action. Sport and politics should not be mixed.

mixed.

ROSE KELLY, CO. DONEGAL. • Unfortunately, sport is often re-garded as a handy political weapon.

Lame excuse

WHY is it that if the League season is so long and gruelling, English clubs have found time to win the European Cup for the past five seasons?

It really annoys me when people say that England didn't win the European Championship because their players were too tired after the domestic sea-

I suppose the same excuse will be offered when England fail in the World Cup.

M. BAILEY, STOKE-ON-TRENT.

 You can see what a professional footballer thinks of your argument on page 27

No sweeper, Ron

HOW can England boss Ron Green-wood even think of using Ray Wilkins or Bryan Robson as a sweeper during the World Cup?

England have too many talented players available to bother with this negative, defensive system. They should leave such tactics to other countries.

GERARD BOOHALLY,

MAURITIUS.

GOAL-LINES

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small, medium or large. When writing to us please mention the two features

you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT! All letters must be exclusive to SHOOTI

This week's Star Letter comes from Mr. R. J. Powell of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, who wins £10. He writes:

AREWELL

Football League has lost one of its most exciting and skilful players in former Liverpool striker David Fairclough.

In World Cup year, it is sad to think that English football never really appreciated Fairclough's vast talent and flair.

In his nine years at Anfield, the 'Bionic Carrot' completely revolutionised the role of substitute.

Yet his huge contribution Liverpool's success in the late 70's was tragically underestimated and now he has been lost to the NASL.
I'd like to wish him all the best in

his new career in Toronto.

Even if he couldn't command a regular place at Liverpool, I'd have thought there would have been a number of other teams who could have found a place for Fairclough.

We want Soccer

THE lady reader who wrote requesting a Mr. Body Beautiful competition, fashion parades and dainty sandwiches at football matches is talking rubbish.

I speak for the thousands of female fans who regularly attend matches when I say that we go along to see FOOTBALL — nothing else.

ANGELA FRYATT, IDENTICAL TREATMENT AND FRYATT AND FRY

IPSWICH.

I'm sure that most female fans take their soccer just as seriously as the men.



Sour grapes

PHIL THOMPSON'S criticism of the referee during Liverpool's defeat against CSKA Sofia was a disgusting

against CSNA Sona was a disgusting case of sour grapes.
I don't recall him moaning after Clive Thomas allowed the offside goal to stand against West Ham in last season's League Cup Final.

MICHAEL McCARTHY, SUTTON COLDFIELD.

Some you win, some you lose.

Lucky fans

IT makes me sad to witness the decline in attendances throughout British soc-cer, even at clubs such as Liverpool and Manchester United.

British fans don't realise how lucky they are. There are thousands of fans all over the world who dream of one day seeing these famous teams in action.
CRAIG WEAVER.

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND.

Bob's the man

LYALL, Clough, Robson, McMenemy... all have been put forward as successor's to Ron Greenwood when he retires as England manager.

tires as England manager.

But what about Liverpool boss Bob
Paisley? His record is second to none
and he must be the most successful
manager in British football history.

PETER LINDSAY, ROMNEY MARSH.



Patience PFA

I TOTALLY agree with Trevor Francis and Mick Mills when they say the timing of the PFA Awards is all wrong.

How can any player possibly be judged on half a season's performances? The PFA should wait until the end of the season before announcing

> CAROL STEATH. BIRMINGHAM.

I'd bet that lan Rush and not Steve Moran would have taken the Young Player's Award if they had waited.

Saintly England

SO A. Da Silva believes that "English soccer is a joke" (Goal-Lines April 17)?
Well at least English players don't have tempers like his beloved Brazil-

Brazilians spit, foul and niggle all the time, and in comparison the English players are saints.

DAVID OWENS MAGHULL.

 They may not have the Latin temperament, but unfortunately few have the Latin skills either.

Goalless bore

AS a Southampton fan present at their home game with WBA I'd just like to say it was the most boring match I've ever seen.

And I feel that both sides were equally to blame.
Albion skipper John Wile was right to

criticise Saints, and particularly Kevin Keegan, for allowing themselves to be

Keegan, for allowing themselves to be caught offside so many times. For a world-class player, Keegan is prone to be caught out by this tactic with depressing frequency.

But however satisfying this may be to professionals such as Wile, it is both tiresome and frustrating for the spectators.

It is such negative tactics which are killing the game as a spectator sport, and I for one would very quickly cease to pay to watch any more games such as this.

D. F. MURRAY, SOUTHAMPTON.

• The offside trap is one of the defender's chief weapons. It is up to the forwards to combat it.

SHOOT: Luis, when we're talking about the World Cup hosts we're inevitably talking about one of the sides with a serious chance of winning the trophy. Would you say Spain are genuinely capable of winning the World Cup, or would it just be an 'accident' simply because you're playing at home?

ARCONADA: I think we're capable of winning the World Cup on merit. I believe we're well prepared and in the right frame of mind to take on the world's best. It obviously won't be easy for us, but we can win it. Of course you can never make predictions as to what will happen in a competition between the world's top professional sides — after all, football isn't mathematics. Some teams will have good luck, and

other teams will have bad luck. Perhaps we need that little bit of good luck if we're to win it, but I wouldn't say it would be an 'accident' if Spain were to be world champions, because I believe we have the makings.

SHOOT: Does playing at home give you endless advantages, right down the

ARCONADA: No, I think there's one important disadvantage that perhaps the Spanish public will expect us to go out and murder the opposition with spectacular football in every match. That's something we just can't do, and something we shouldn't even try to do. The advantages are that we don't have to travel; we're near our family and friends; we're in a familiar environment; we can speak our own language; we don't have to cope with any changes of climate or food; and we have a lot of fans at every match.

SHOOT: And of course the referees are said to favour the home team.

ARCONADA: I don't go along with that at all. In domestic competitions there are maybe some referees who tend to favour the home team and others who tend to favour the away team. But in a World Cup I'd like to think that all the referees are of a sufficiently high international standard to be able to officiate objectively.

SHOOT: Spain passed virtually unnoticed in the 1978 Finals. Have you learnt any lessons from that

ARCONADA: Things have changed radically in the last four years. I







No.18 **ARCONADA** Spain

personally saw the 1978 games from the subs' bench and, without going into details or offending anyone, I'll just say it was obvious we made mistakes because we were eliminated in the First Round! I hope we have profited from that lesson and that we won't be eliminated so quickly this time.

SHOOT: Argentina's win in 1978 seemed to have a tremendous social significance for the people. What does the World Cup mean to the Spanish people?

ARCONADA: This is something I haven't thought about — and it's a difficult question for a football player to answer. I can only say that it's certainly a great event in the lives of the Spanish people something they'll remember and talk about for years.

WORLD CUP RECORD

Year Opponents	Result
1934 Brazil	3-1
Italy	1-1
Italy	0-1
1950 United States	3-1
Chile	2-0
England	1-0
Uruguay	2-2
Brazil	1-6
Sweden	1-3
1962 Czechoslovakia	0-1
Mexico	1-0
Brazil	1-2
1966 Argentina	1-2
Switzerland	2-1
West Germany	
1978 Austria	1-2
	1-2
Brazil	0-0
Sweden	1-0

* Spain qualified automatically for the '82 Finals as hosts.

RIGHT: Spain (dark strip) went out in the First Round in Argentina despite a goalless draw with Brazil.



Spain beat Scotland 3-0 in a World Cup warm-up in Valencia in February.

saw them at their best. I wouldn't pick out anyone in particular, but I think they proved they're a team who work hard, and we must work even harder if we're to beat them.

SHOOT: Your friendlies against Scotland and Wales — did you see them as preparation for the clash with the Irish?

ARCONADA: Yes, they've formed an important part of our preparations for meeting Northern Ireland. Like Scotland and Wales, the Irish draw most of their men from the English League, so we've had two valuable samples of the sort of thing we're going to meet in June.

SHOOT: Spain v Northern Ireland is the last match in the group. Do you think it'll be decisive, or do you hope to have clinched your place in the second phase beforehand? meet in the Semi-Final. In our half, perhaps West Germany and ourselves or Yugoslavia. This is why I said it's important to finish first in our group to have a better chance of avoiding the Germans.

SHOOT: What makes Argentina one of your tips?

ARCONADA: They have the talent, and they also mark the opposition very tightly. What's more, even though they're not a very big team physically, they make up for this with commitment and sheer will to win.

SHOOT: And Brazil?

ARCONADA: What can I say? They're just so skilful. They move the ball around brilliantly and they always look dangerous.

SHOOT: The West Germans?

ARCONADA: I think it's true that they're the best in Europe at the moment.

SHOOT: Too good for Spain?

ARCONADA: No, I don't think so, bearing in mind that we're playing a Cup competition. If we can avoid them in the League phases of the competition and meet them in a knock-out Semi-Final, I think we can beat them. Maybe they'd win more times than us if we played ten games, but in a single match in front of our public I think we could take them.

SHOOT: Does being skipper bring you a lot of responsibilities?

ARCONADA: Yes, more than most people would think. You'd be surprised if you added up all the time I spend in dealing with the Press and the public; representing the players in meeting after meeting; and even attending lunches or dinners or collecting awards. I don't mind it at all—in fact I like it. But it does mean that you have to be generally that extra

win-on merit'

SHOOT: Let's turn to your rivals. How do you see Group Five?

ARCONADA: Well, on paper it looks as though Yugoslavia and Spain should be the favourites to qualify. The Yugoslavs look a strong team to me, and they've got a good record against us, too. They beat us 1-0 the last time they played here in the European Championship. They have some fine players; they're well prepared; and Miljanic is an excellent manager. What's more, after his years at Real Madrid he knows Spanish football inside-out.

SHOOT: What about Northern Ireland?

ARCONADA: I hardly knew them until I saw them lose 4-0 to England on TV — and I don't think I



ARCONADA: I think it'll be decisive one way or another. Obviously I just can't begin to predict all the earlier results in the group, but bear in mind that we must aim to win the group. If we finish second, we'll be in a group with the winners of Group Two and Four — and they could easily be West Germany and England. If we can win our group, I believe our second phase matches will be that little bit easier. So I think it's safe to say that a good result against Northern Ireland will be very important to us whatever happens.

SHOOT: Nobody seems to be tipping the British sides for honours. Why do you think this is?

ARCONADA: I think they're too insular. The other day I was reading an interview with Pat Jennings, where he was saying that the media concentrate so much on the domestic game and so much attention is paid to the home competitions that few British fans know anything about football in other countries, and are in the dark about players and teams. Then there's the British Championship with so-called international games where about 20 of the players are from English clubs. The British seem happy to shut themselves off from what's going on in the rest of the world, and I'm not sure that this attitude pays off when it comes to competing in the top international competitions against teams who play a different brand of football.

SHOOT: What are your predictions for the top places?

ARCONADA: I'd like to say West Germany and Spain for the Final, but the way the programme has been organised, that's impossible because we'd have to meet beforehand. I think maybe Brazil and Argentina should come through their side of the draw and



THE MANAGER JOSE EMILIO SANTAMARIA

DORN on July 31st, 1929 in Montevideo, "Pepe" Santamaría began at 15 with Nacional in the Uruguayan capital. For 13 seasons he combined foot-

ball with a banking career, picking up four League titles and 41 international caps.

Three years later he was signed by Real Madrid, and his efficient work at the centre of the European Champions' defence helped them to three more European Cups; one Intercontinental Cup; and eight domestic titles. He also won 16 Spanish caps.

Spanish caps.

In 1968, after his retirement, he coached Spain's Olympic, Amateur and Youth teams, before joining Español as manager in 1971.

He brought success to a modest club and, after his resignation in 1977, he was named assistant to national team boss Ladislao Kubala.

When Kubala departed following the 1980 European Championship, Santamaría was given the task of preparing the World Cup hosts.

bit on your toes all the time, and it's sometimes difficult to find exactly the right things to say.

SHOOT: How do you plan to spend your rest days during the World Cup?

ARCONADA: Training for a start! Then watching the other matches on TV. Reading. And playing billiards or table-tennis.

SHOOT: Do you think you'll be nervous when you lead Spain out in the World Cup?

ARCONADA: Fortunately we've got a gentle opening match against Honduras, so I should be all right. Theoretically, they could produce a surprise, but if we're to win the World Cup we can't let ourseives be surprised by sides like Honduras. I'm not normally nervous before games, but whether I'd feel nervous before a World Cup Final is something I'd like to find out!

SHOOT: Do you ever dream of lifting the World Cup trophy in triumph?

ARCONADA: No! Honestly. I mean, I'm the sort of person who likes to keep his feet on the ground. I'm not really a dreamer. What's more, once I've finished training I try to forget all about football. Otherwise you just keep turning things over and over in your mind, and you can drive yourself mad. So my dreams normally have nothing to do with football at all, and I promise you I've never dreamt of lifting the World Cup. But that doesn't mean I wouldn't like to!

NEXT WEEK ALEXANDER CHIVADZE USSR

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On the ball

ACROSS:-

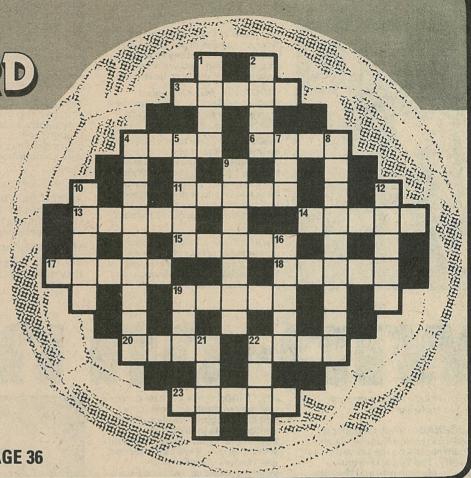
- (3) Graham —, Southampton midfield
- man. (5) (4) England Youth - Webb
- (4) England Youth international; Web (Reading). (4)
 (6) Brotherston, Blackburn Rovers winger. (4)
 (11) Something given for achievement, etc. (5)
 (13 & 21 Down) Orient

- defender. (5)
 (14) Paul —, Leicester
 defender. (5)
 (15) Willie —, Nottingham
 Forest defender. (5)
 (17) Pabaran Levich
- Robson; Ipswich Town manager. (5) (18) Sudden forward
- movement. (5)
- movement. (5)
 (19) Irish League club. (5)
 (20) Sp----field Park; home
 of Wigan Athletic. (4)
 (22) Coney, Fulham
 striker. (4)
 (23) Tommy Manchester
 City defender.

- (1) Bradshaw, Wolves 'keeper. (4)
- (2) Rodney —, Rotherham striker. (4)
- (4) Jimmy —, West Ham winger. (9)
- (5) Enzo Bearzot is this country's national team
- manager. (5) Trafford is

- (7) Trafford is Manchester United's ground. (3) (8) Mark —, Liverpool defender. (9) (9) Paul —, Stoke City forward. (7) (10) Remove "LIMB" from Wimbledon and make the remainder into a word meaning "invest".
- word meaning (5)
 (12) Robbie —, Swansea City striker. (5)
 (16) Park; ground of Brechin City. (5)
 (19) G---n Roeder; O.P.R. defender (3)
 (21) See 13 Across. (4)
 (22) Mickey —, Chelsea defender. (4)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 36





T the moment Scotland manager Jock Stein is collecting his thoughts and assembling his final World Cup squad of 22. It will be a pool that will comprise the cream of the tartan crop, the players best suited to the rigours of Spain.

Some stars, however, may return from the World Cup Finals wondering if there is a hoodoo on Scotland. It's worth taking a look at the squad which made that ill-fated trip to Argentina in '78 and the shattering after-effects it had on some of the players.

Argentina being acclaimed as one of the men who could take the tournament by storm

but not quite in the way intended! After the shock 3-1 defeat from the 'old men' of Peru, Johnston was on his way back to Britain after a

dope test had proved positive.
His career with West Brom came
to an end, he had a spell in the
States with Vancouver Whitecaps, was brought back to Scotland via recently handed a free transfer.

The jinx also hit skipper Bruce Rioch and his midfield mate Don

He certainly hit the headlines,

Rangers two seasons ago and was

Masson. Both were with Derby

Stein picked him against Norway at Hampden in his first game in charge of the international team three seasons ago, but he is a forgotten man these days

Joe Harper, who was then the prince of the Pittodrie penalty-area as he powered Aberdeen towards the top, also made the Argentinian trip, but hardly kicked a ball in

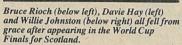
anger. He, too, was severely injured shortly after returning and today is playing in the Highland League in front of meagre attendances.

Derek Johnstone, of Rangers, didn't get a chance at all to show what he could do in '78 and it's only now that the lbrox powerhouse is returning to something like his best form. And the bad news continues

with the recent announcement that Johnstone's Rangers colleague Tom Forsyth has had to quit the game because of the leg injury which has plagued him for almost three seasons.

Could anyone be blamed for wondering if there was a curse on that Scotland squad in Argentina? In only four years that pool, then





Aberdeen's Bobby Clark was one of the three goalkeepers, but crippling injury has kept him out of the Pittodrie first team for the past two years and Jim Leighton has made the position his own.

Jim Blyth, of Coventry, was understudy to Alan Rough and he, too, has suffered injuries which have kept him out of the Highfield Road team.

A proposed £400,000 transfer to Manchester United also fell through because of back trouble. And now Blyth is struggling to win back his first team place.

Rough, of course, was widely criticised for his performances in the World Cup, but has learned from those mistakes and improved as a goalkeeper. However, there seems little even a top form Rough can do to prevent the Partick Thistle men from sliding out of the Premier Division at the end of the

Willie Johnston's career has nosedived alarmingly since his infamous drug-taking capers in South America. He went out to

SCOTLANDS WORLD CUP

County at the time, but now four years later on, their paths have taken a wildly varying route along

soccer's highway. Veteran Masson, axed immediately by Scotland after Argentina, had a stint in America and was showing some of his old flashes in Notts County's midfield when he announced his retirement, but Rioch's glory days as a player are well behind him.

Collision

Gordon McQueen was another Anglo who was lauded loudly before the Argentinian Finals, but a collision with a goalpost in the British Championship match against Wales at Hampden just before the squad took off for South America ruled him out of all three games against Peru, Iran and Holland.

And the Manchester United giant has suffered numerous setbacks in his battle to get a consistent place in the Old Trafford

back-four. United colleague Martin Buchan didn't last long after '78. Jock

the best Scotland could muster, has been decimated by injuries and loss of form

Four years before that assault on soccer's Everest, Scotland, of course, paraded their talents in West Germany . . . and again some of that squad found luck against them when they returned.

Willie Morgan, the former right-wing ace of Manchester United, was struck in the eye during a game of tennis and the injury was so severe that his career almost ended there and then.
Happily, he returned, but time was running out for him at Old Trafford and he moved on to Bolton.

Coincidentally, Davie Hay, the battler beside Billy Bremner in the '74 midfield, also received a bad eye injury after moving from Celtic to Chelsea. Hay desperately tried to overpower the handicap, but eventually had to admit defeat.

David Harvey was voted the outstanding goalkeeper of the '74 World Cup Finals, but he, too, was a victim of the hoodoo shortly after his performances

against Zaire, Brazil and Yugoslavia in West Germany.

In his first game at Hampden after winning the praise of everyone in the World Cup Finals, Harvey conceded a dreadful goal to Spain's Quini in a European Championship tie as the Scots flopped 2-1. His international career was coming to an end just as it was really taking off!

Obscurity

And, rubbing salt into the wounds, Harvey's form dipped at Leeds United and the Elland Road side introduced youngster John Lukic, who has now made the position his own. Harvey has since moved on into obscurity.

Big Jim Holton made an enormous impact in West Germany, one way or another, but he didn't know at the time that his

international career was also cartwheeling towards disaster.
A broken leg shortly after the 1974 Finals effectively brought both his Scottish and Manchester United careers to an abrupt end.

And not only the players have been affected by the jinx. Willie Ormond was manager of the '74 squad while Ally MacLeod was in

charge of the Argentinian pool. Both are out of soccer today after being sacked at club jobs with Hibs and Motherwell . . .



A look at some of the talented teenagers who've burst on to the scene this season.

Chelsea goalkeeper Steve Francis has earned his spurs in his first season in the League side and has already won England honours at Youth team level.

Watford's John Barnes soars to send in a goalbound header at Orient.

be a trio of tomorrow's "big shots" as the Gunners drive through the

Terry Neill's team has come in for a hefty does of critical brickbats on account of its dour defensiveness and a patent lack of finishing power up front.

Arsenal's 'Black Diamonds'

Neill and his assistant, Don Neill and his assistant, Don Howe, vigorously defend their tactical approach, and their irritation with the disparaging broadsides fired at them this term seems justified when you look at Arsenal's healthy position among the Championship challengers.

Certainly there is nothing boring or stereotyped about the performances of those Highbury "black diamonds," Davis and Whyte, so skilfully and determinedly establishing themselves in the first team.

themselves in the first team.



UDGING by the amount of extremely talented youngsters who have recently caught the eye on the League circuit, it seems highly likely that some of them could become tomorrow's household names.

One teenage topper who looks dead on course for the big-time is Chelsea's 17-year-old 'keeper Steve Francis, described by Liverpool's canny boss, Bob Paisley, as: "the best young goalkeeping prospect I have seen

Back in November, Fourth **Division Wigan Athletic turned** Chelsea's League Cup trip to Springfield Park into a nightmare when they ended the Londoners' interest in that particular trophy with a four-goal blitz.

Courageous Francis

That bleak, catastrophic evening in Wigan was only young Steve's second outing with the senior side, and at the end of it, he was convinced that his brief interlude as a Chelsea first teamer was over.

"I never expected to stay in the side after the Wigan game," recalls Francis. "But Mr. Neal had faith in me, and that gave me a

tremendous lift. Of course, luck

has played an important part in my promotion to the first team.

"If our reserve team goalkeeper Bob lles hadn't been injured when Petar Borota was left out, I'd be playing in the youth team instead of lining up against teams like

Liverpool and Spurs.
"I loved the terrific atmosphere at both those games, and it made me all the keener to help Chelsea win promotion to the First

Apart from his impressive performances since taking over from Borota, Francis has shown remarkable maturity and strength of character in his sensible approach to the acclaim that has been heaped upon him during recent months

"A lot of of flattering things have been written and said about me recently," says Steve, "but, after all, I'm still practically a newcomer whose only concern is keeping his place in the first team. I've just got to keep on improving and learning all I can about the job.

A few miles from Stamford Bridge, over at Highbury, three Arsenal "starlets", Chris Whyte, Paul Davis and Stewart Robson, young men of enormous potential, have offered substantial evidence this season that they are going to



Both lads have deservedly earned the appreciation of the Highbury fans in their fight to surmount that most daunting of soccer obstacles - successfully filling the shoes of departed

heroes.

While the slim, talented Davis would be the first to admit that he hasn't erased the memory of midfield ace Liam Brady from the Arsenal terraces, he and the impressive Chris Whyte, who has proved such an admirable

replacement for that former Highbury favourite, Willie Young, seem destined to fill major roles in The Gunners' bid for domestic and European success throughout the

The kid from Canvey

But the boy who stands on the threshold of a brilliant Arsenal career is 17-year-old Stewart Robson, former public schoolboy,

the Second Division's most dangerous, and entertaining

But don't run away with the idea that tomorrow's golden nuggets are being mined exclusively in the

There's an 18-year-old up in Sunderland called Nick Pickering who has stood out like a guardsman in a roomfull of jockeys during this season of gloom and despair for the Roker men.

Watching this tall, slim boy from South Shields stamping his youthful, confident authority on the side, it's hard to believe that two years ago, Nick's paperweight frame, 5ft. 6ins. off the grass, nearly ended his Sunderland career before it got off the ground.

Luckily, the lad who has been a Sunderland fanatic all his life was signed as a full-time professional and his remarkable progress since his first team debut at the start of the season has made him a Roker

Park idol, and inevitably, a target for the First Division aristocracy. Prising Pickering from Wearside, however, may not be all that easy, as Sunderland's soaring young star revealed, when he admitted;

My one real ambition in life is wy one real ambition in the is to have a long career with Sunderland. I never wanted, nor do I want to now, play my football anywhere else. I've always had red-and-white eyes!"

Geordie Gems

Roker Park boss, Alan Durban, reckons that this Geordie gem will play for England, and that is a predicition that no one who has seen Pickering in First Division action this season would ignore.

Over the years, the North-East of England has provided a rich vein of gilt-edged youngsters for League clubs, and one of the most regular and successful prospectors have been Burnley, the team that tumbled out of the First Division in 1976 and who are now striving to climb out of the Third.

It looks as if the Turf Moor scouting set-up in Geordieland has come up with another winner in Trevor Steven, an 18-year-old midfielder who, in the opinion of his skipper, former England international Martin Dobson, is tailor-made for the top-grade.

"Trevor is a tremendous prospect," says Martin, "and I have no doubts at all about his ability to establish himself in the First Division.

"For an 18-year-old, his composure is remarkable, and he possesses all the qualities that you look for in a first-class midfield

player.
"Vision, superb passing skill, clever ball control, and 100 per clever ball control, and 100 per cent involvement. The lad has attracted a lot of attention from the big clubs this season, but it hasn't affected him. Trevor's feet are firmly on the ground." Steven himself is perfectly happy at Turf Moor, and he has certainly never regretted turning down offers from both Sunderland

down offers from both Sunderland and Newcastle United to sign schoolboy forms.

"I signed for Burnley as a 14-year-old," recalls Trevor, "and everything that has happened since has proved to me that I made the right choice. Burnley would be a since the since and the right choice. the right choice. Burnley really care about their young players.
They bring them along correctly,
make them feel that they are just
as important to the club as first

as important to the clab as installed and players.

"I've only just started my League career, and I've got a lot to learn, and even though, at the moment, we're a Third Division club, there's no better place in the country for

teaching a young player his trade than Turf Moor. "I'm just happy to play for Burnley. I have no desire to move anywhere else."

But, sooner or later, Burnley, as they have done so often in the past, will have to sell to survive, and the magnet for the First Division titans will undoubtedly be teenager Trevor Steven.

Future England stars

And there are many more flashing young blades — like Southampton's free-scoring Steve Moran, so admired by his

Moran, so admired by his team-mate Kevin Keegan.
Charlton's 19-year-old striker Paul Walsh and 17-year-old defender Paul Elliott. "A pair of future England stars," purrs their manager, Alan Mullery.
There's also a kid called Dean Coney who has set Fulham's Craven Cottage alight this season with a goal flair reminiscent of his boss, Malcolm Macdonald, a legendary goal-miner with Luton,

legendary goal-miner with Luton,
Newcastle and Arsenal.
We believe that the talents,
character, and application of the
gifted youngsters we have
mentioned, plus the exciting
potential of many more waiting in
the wings, will make the current decade a rewarding and memorable one for fans and players alike — especially the young 'uns destined to become tomorrow's headline heroes.

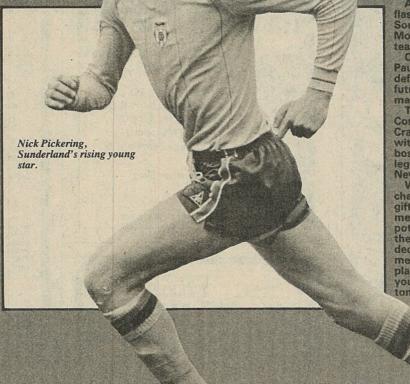
who burst into the tall type following his outstanding debut against West Ham at Upton Park.

against West Ham at Upton Park.
Against Ipswich recently at
Highbury, the kid from Canvey
Island cracked home the only goal
of the game, and iced the cake
with a midfield display that won
this comment from his manager:
"Robson was marvellous and
outstanding," enthused Neill, "and
honestly, the lad is so talented, we
still don't know which is his best
position. He started his League
career as a full-back, played as
central defender for the England
Youth side, and his latest two
games have been in midfield.
"His breakthrough has been far
quicker than normal, but he's a

quicker than normal, but he's a quicker than normal, but he s a strong, well developed boy, who grasps things very quickly. Stewart has an ideal temperament, he's intelligent, and I believe he has a great future ahead of him."

Barnes stings for Hornets

Like their counterparts at Stamford Bridge and Highbury, Watford's supporters are also revelling in the silky skills of their own 17-year-old star, John Barnes. Jamaican-born Barnes, a tricky, elusive left-winger whose superb crossing ability has provided so many goal chances for Ross Jenkins and Luther Blissett, is himself no mean finisher. And it is this combination of pace, this combination of pace, precocious skill and crisp opportunism which has made Watford's gifted teenager one of



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ARK Lawrenson was M Staggered when walked into Liverpool's Anfield fortress for the first time following his £900,000 move from Brighton last summer.

He expected some airs and graces from people connected with the most successful club side in Europe. And he admits he was shocked when he found there were none.

"Liverpool were so down to earth and homely I just could not believe it," says Republic of Ireland defender Lawrenson.

For a club who have won everything there is no swank or flashness at all. Everybody is absolutely genuine - from the chairman to the tea lady.

'And everyone is treated exactly the same — as adults and human beings. There's no question of being handled like kids, with fines slapped on you if you step out of

"As far as I know the Liverpool management have never fined anyone. They don't have to - for

with the depth of talent at their disposal they can just drop you.

"And that's the biggest punishment of all. Nobody wants to be out of the team, for there is no knowing when you will get back.

'It took about ten minutes to convince me I had made the right move in coming to Anfield when I left Brighton.
"I could have joined Manchester



great clubs and their interest was flattering. But I wanted to leave Brighton because I was anxious to win things — and Liverpool don't do too badly when it comes to doing that.

'They have cleaned up just about everything there is to win in recent years. That's what attracted me to them in the first place.

Yet all the success they have enjoyed has not been allowed to go to their heads. Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan and Ronnie Moran make sure feet are kept firmly on the floor.

"Take this year's League Cup Final, for instance. We did not

arrive in London until 8.45 on the Friday evening before our Wembley date with Tottenham.

"And there was no celebration banquet after our 3-1 win in extra time. It was straight to Euston Station for the train back to Mer-

seyside.
"Bob Paisley told us we could have a few drinks on the train ride home - but once we got off it had to stop, as we had an important European Cup match the following Wednesday.

"The lads reacted so sensibly and responsibly to this that if the League Cup had not been sitting on the table in front of us you would never have guessed we had won anything!

"But that's the way they do things here. And it's what makes them the magnificent club they are.

'Forget'

"They have certainly been good to me since I've been here and made me forget all about leaving

Brighton.
"I must admit that was a wrench. They were a good little club and it's a marvellous part of the world to live. But the chance to sign for Liverpool does not come along every day and when it does you grab it . . . if you have any

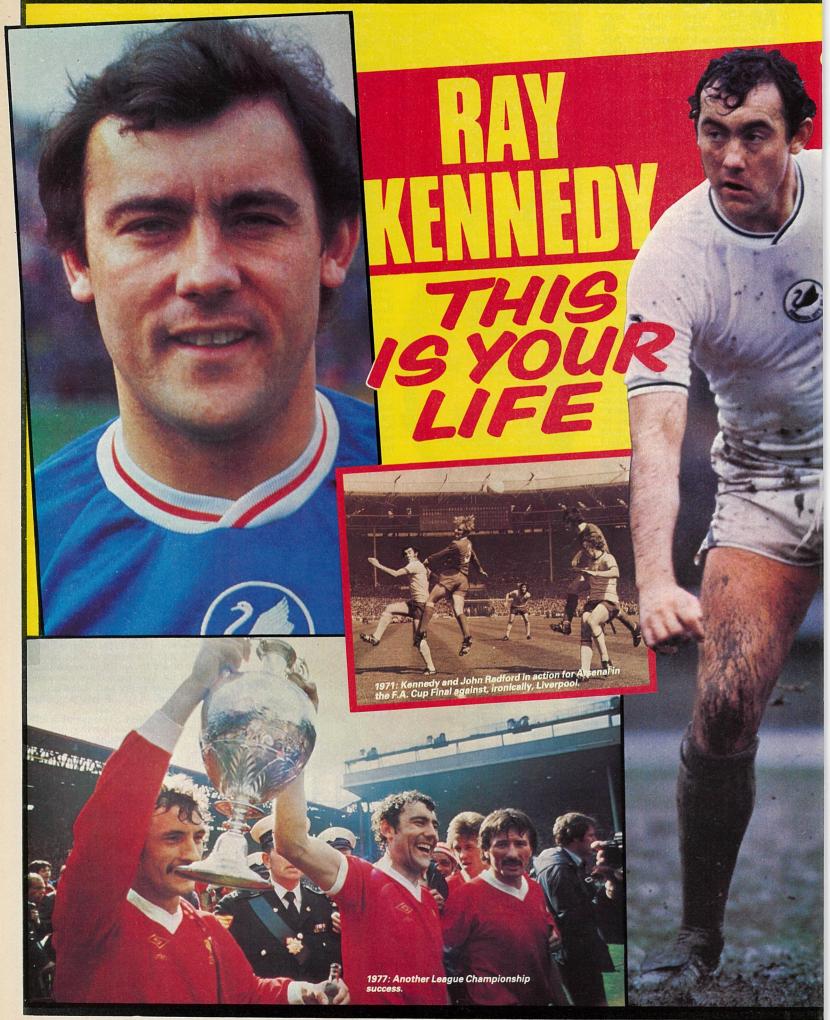
sense.
"I'm settled in a house at Southport port — by the Birkdale and Hillside golf courses. And if I have one regret it's that I can't play that

game enough.
"We are not encouraged to anyway — be-cause the football club claim it tires your legs. And the busy gramme we have makes

it difficult to get out.
"When I do get the clubs out I partner Kenny Dalglish, who is also my neighbour.

Some of you may have seen him make a real name for himself in the Celebrity Golf on BBC TV recently. And I must admit I'm not in his class.

"However, it's football that comes first. I'm delighted to have joined the club that always comes first in that - long may it continue.'





BUSY ZICO

THE life of a football star in Brazil is a

hard one. Take Zico, for instance. In the first 70 days of 1982 he had to travel 16 times to eight different countries or towns within Brazil, each trip

taking an average of four days.

He also signs an average of 200 autographs per day and receives fan mail of some 350 letters daily from home and

He distributes 20 of his shirts (autographed) daily and gives 16-30 'exclusive' interviews per day to local and foreign Press men.

His telephone number is unlisted, but even so it is changed every year. Zico's sponsorship includes six inter-

Zico's sponsorship includes six international publicity companies amongst whom are Coca-Cola, Wella, Le Coq Sportif and Sony (in Japan only). He also runs his own company, but his wife complains that the only time she can have him to herself is during the annual holidays.



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

Best manager bows out

REAL MADRID manager Vujadin Bos-kov couldn't keep back the tears when he said 'adios' to the squad following his shock

said 'adios' to the squad following his shock resignation just four games from the end of the League programme.

The players, including Laurie Cunningham, were amazed and saddened by the likeable Yugoslav's departure, and while club stalwart Luis Molowny took over at the helm, many of the squad were regreting the departure of a man they openly rated the best manager they'd ever known.

Boskov (below) decided to leave because a section of the Real crowd had been

a section of the Real crowd had been repeatedly shouting abuse at him during game after game — even when the team was winning.

Real promptly pulled off a sensational victory on penalties in a heart-stopping Cup Semi-Final against Luis Arconada's Real

The Basques had won the first-leg 1-0, and defended their advantage in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium right up to the 90th minute when Juanito beat four defenders, played a one-two, and slotted the ball home.

Extra-time failed to produce a goal, so the tie was decided in Real Madrid's favour 4-3 on penalties to clinch a Final place against Sporting Gijon, who they beat 2-1.





Luque's back

had been pelted with rocks in Tenerife and had lost 1-0 thanks to a laughable penalty decision.

LEOPOLDO LUQUE is back in the sky-

LEOPOLDO LUQUE is back in the sky-blue-and-white striped shirt.

No, he hasn't been called back into the national squad for Argentina's world title defence (yet), he's joined Racing for a year on loan from Mexican club Tam-pico, in a somewhat complicated deal.

pico, in a somewhat complicated deal.
Racing must pay 50,000 dollars for the loan, but the money is going to Velez Sarsfield, who are owed 50,000 dollars by Tampico for the loan of goalkeeper Landaburu!

News flashes

A month later, Wales had a

● Diego Maradona believes Argentina will beat West Germany 2-0 in the World Cup Final with him scoring both goals!

• Strange piece of news from the hoteliers who are preparing to act as hosts to Scotland followers this summer.

Down on the Costa del Sol they reckon that only

7,000 beds per night will be occupied by World

Cup fans.
They're also studying the underhand idea of making it difficult for the Scots to book camping holidays in the area, and forcing them into hotels instead.

 Kuwait have stunned the World Cup Organising Committee

by announcing that their official party in Spain will comprise some 250 people!

these preparation matches is that Santamaria's best player is likely

to be a man dressed in black."

• Italy manager Enzo Bearzot has come under fire from Edmondo Fabbri, the man who was in charge of Italy when they were humiliated in the 1966 World Cup Finals by tiny North Korea.

"Bearzot must be fired," Fabbri said. "Otherwise there will be a disaster in Spain."

Espa **Semi-Finals** would please Germans

MOST people reckon West Germany are Europe's best bet to win the World Cup — or at least reach the Final. Jupp Derwall, the West German

manager, is more cautious.

"Yes, we have a good chance," he says. "But it won't be the end of the world if we don't win it, as some people

"A Semi-final place would still be most satisfying. My personal favourites are Brazil."

Derwall (above) isn't convinced having 24 Finalists is a step in the right direction.

The fewer the teams, the higher the quality. I don't think you can consider the inclusion of eight extra sides as an

improvement.

Improvement.
"I'm also worried that too much live
TV will harm the competition.
"We saw in the 1980 European
Championship Finals in Italy how many

fans preferred to stay at home — t stadiums were only a quarter full.

"I'm aware that as one of the to teams we have certain responsibilities to set the standard, not just for the World Cup but for the future of the

"The less skilful teams will automatically play defensively, but I hope most teams will adopt the motto 'score first and defend afterwards' not the other way round."

A GROUP of Arabs were in Brazil recently to look at players they were thinking of buying for their clubs.

The match at the Maracana left them wide-eyed. Not so much the football, but the supporters.

One Arab remarked: "We should sign the crowd, not players. With support like that anyone can play well!"

Lubanski on the way out

FORMER Polish international Wlodzimierz Lubanski is slowly retiring from the game.

The 35-year-old striker is still with SC Lokeren in Beigium, but rarely plays the

Lubanski, who also runs a pub in Lieren, still has something to offer, though.

In a recent game he came on as sub at half-time . . . and scored in the 47th

minute.

Three days later he scored two and made another goal before being substi-

OME of our top players could be going to Spain in June suffering from a handicap — fatigue!

Playing 70-80 games in all competitions during a season is not the ideal preparation for the World Cup

Other countries don't have to endure such an arduous rat race as we do in England.

Look at the fixture congestion Tottenham faced recently. They had to play seven games in 14 days, including the two leg European Cup-Winners' Cup Semi-Final Cup-Winners' against Barcelona.

As one sports-writer pointed out, at the beginning of April, Spurs had at least 17 tough matches to play before the end of the season compared to Barcelona's five or six.

Most nations involved in the World Cup Finals have had their squads together for several weeks.

Priorities

It's about time we got our priorities right in this country and gave top players and our international teams the same chances as the rest of the world by reducing the First Division to 18 clubs.

This would relieve some pressure on the clubs that provide the bulk of our national squads.

But it's not only the First Division that needs to be streamlined. The whole of the Football League must be overhauled.

The two lower Divisions must be reorganised. It's ridiculous for a club like Torquay to travel to Crewe and Hartlepool only to play in front of 1,500 fans. No wonder football is going broke.

Most clubs outside the First and Second Divisions will have to go



part-time to reduce salaries and other overheads.

But that won't necessarily mean the end for some of the game's most well-known clubs.

There are many thriving outfits outside the League, such as Altrincham, Enfield and Dagenham. With their match fees and wages from jobs outside football, players

We've also seen more clubs involved in relegation issues, which has generated excitement at the other end of the scale.

Looking at the top of the First Division, I don't think the new system would have altered the léading positions at all.

Even with two points for a win we'd still have seen the same half-adozen clubs challenging for Villa's

It was a real sickener when we

had to concede the Championship. At the moment, Liverpool are looking odds on to take the title for the 13th time. They've looked a class above the rest of the Division these last few weeks.

Although they would have loved to have won the Grand Slam, it was a blessing in disguise being knocked out of Europe and the F.A.

As Villa discovered last season, it is an advantage being able to concentrate on just one trophy.

Remember Ipswich last year? At one time they were in with a chance of winning the lot, but ended with just one pot — the U.E.F.A. Cup.

Spurs could find themselves in

that situation. Mind you, every top club would love to be in their

position, going for everything. Naturally the Championship has to be the number one target. To win the title you need consistency, a strong squad, an injury free run, especially during the last weeks as the tension mounts, and luck.



can often be far better off than they would be with a Third or Fourth Division club.

There was one change to the rules this season — three points for a win.

I suppose it's been a success because it's given more clubs hope of winning the title and promotion.



Dennis Tueart scored the only goal when Manchester City and Aston Villa met at Maine Road in the League earlier this

It's vital to have a settled side. Last season Villa used just 14 players in winning the title. This time we were forced to use 16 or 17 in the first few months. This upset the

balance and rhythm of the team.
One club tipped as possible Champions at the start of the season were Manchester City, Villa's opponents this Saturday (May 1st).

Fancied

Injuries robbed them of several key players like Trevor Francis, but really I never fancied them much, even though they beat us 1-0 at Maine Road.

A couple of trouncings, including that 5-0 thrashing by Liverpool on April 10th, has confirmed my

But manager John Bond is a good organiser and will be looking to strengthen the side during the summer.

Having said that, Villa generally struggle against City. Perhaps that situation will change at Villa Park on Saturday and we'll add to John Bond's problems.

Before I close this week I'd just like to say thank you for your letters. I intend to answer a few of them in the near future.

Cheers . . .





INE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS

Saturday, April 3

Second Division

(continued)

C. PALACE (0) 0 GRIMSBY (1) 3 (Kilmore, Moore (K), Whymark)

C. Palace: Barron, Bason (Hilaire), Hinshelwood, Lovell, Cannon, Mabbutt, Brooks, Gilbert, Giles, Smillie,

Grimsby: Batch, Moore (D), Crombie (Crosby), Waters, Stone, Moore (K), Brolly, Kilmore, Whymark, Mitchell,

LUTON (1) 2 (Stein, White) BLACKBURN (0) 0

Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Money, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghy, Hill (Jennings), Stein, White, Turner, Moss. Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Speight, Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Stonehouse, Bell, Garner (Hamilton), Brotherston.

WREXHAM (0) 1 (McNeil)
DERBY (1) 1 (Emson)
Wrexham: Niedzwiecki, Hill, Bater, Davis, Dowman,
Ronson, Leman, McNeil, Vinter, Fox, Carrodus.
Derby: Banovic, Barton, Buckley, Skivington, Sheridan,
McAlle, George, Attley, Wilson, Swindlehurst, Emson.

Third Division

BRENTFORD (1) 1 (Booker) OXFORD (2) 2 (Hebberd, Foley) 5.786 BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0 4,279 MILLWALL (1) 1 (Hayes)

BURNLEY (2) 3 (Hamilton 2, Young) 6,622 CARLISLE (2) 2 (Staniforth, Ashurst)

PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 3.919 CHESTERFIELD (0) 0 7,443 LINCOLN (1) 2 (Cunningham, Hobson)

DONCASTER (0) 1 (Wigginton) GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Sitton) 3.902

EXETER (1) 3 (Raynor(og), Kellow pen, Giles) CHESTER (0) 0

PRESTON (1) 3 (Bruce 2, O'Riordan) WIMBLEDON (0) 2 (Leslie, Brown) 4.964

SOUTHEND (0) 3 (Greaves 2, Phillips pen) 3,133 BRISTOL CITY (0) 0 SWINDON (1) 1 (Rideout)

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 5 (Hanvey, Hotte 2, Cowling, Kennedy) 3,872

WALSALL (0) 1 (Buckley pen) FULHAM (0) 1 (O'Driscoil)

Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (MacDonald) PORT VALE (2) 2 (Sproson, Deakin) 1.594 BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Funnell) BLACKPOOL (0) 0 5.146

BRADFORD (0) 1 (Campbell) TRANMERE (1) 1 (Griffiths) 4.489 HULL (2) 2 (Flounders 2) HEREFORD (0) 1 (Price)

3.713 NORTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Saxby, Coffill) HARTLEPOOL (1) 1 (Bird) 1.890

PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Phillips) 4.931 BURY (0) 0

ROCHDALE (1) 1 (Hilditch) MANSFIELD (1) 1 (Parkinson) 1.276

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4) 4 (Matthews, Morris, Edwards, Trusson)
TORQUAY (0) 1 (Brown) 14.992

Scottish Cup

(Semi-Finals)

ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Strachan pen)
ST MIRREN (0) 1 (MacDougall) At Parkhead

Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Miller, McLeish, Rougvie (Bell), Cooper, McMaster, Strachan, Simpson, Hewitt (Jarvie), McGhee.

St Mirrae: Thomass.

St Mirren: Thomson, Beckett, Abercremby, Stark, McCormack, Copland, Richardson, McAvennie, MacDougall, Bone, Scanlon.

RANGERS 0 At Hampden Park 15,878 Forfar: Kennedy, Bennett, McPhee, Brown, Brash, Leitch, Allan (Porter), Farningham, Hancock, Gallacher,

Rangers: Stewart, Dawson, Black, Jardine, McClelland, Bett, Dalziel (Davies), Russell, McAdam (Robertson), Redford, MacDonald.

Scottish Premier

AIRDRIE (d) 0
HIBS (d) 2 (Jamieson 2)
2,500
Airdrie: Martin, Anderson (G), Rodger, McCluskey,
March, Anderson (N), McKeown (Gordon), Flood,
Campbell, Walker (Thompson), McGürre.
Hibs: McArthur, Sneddon, Schaedler, Brazil, Paterson,
McNamara, McLaren, Jamieson, Rae (Rodier),

DUNDEE (0) 0 DUNDEE (0) 0 DUNDEE UNITED (1) 2 (Bannon, Sturrock) 12,602

Dundee: Geddes, McKinnie, Smith, Glennie, Cameron, Barr (Scrimgeour), Fraser, Kidd (Stephen), Ferguson, Sinclair, Mackie. Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Holt, Stark, Gough, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Milne (Reilly), Sturrock, Kirkwood, Dodde

MORTON (0) 1 (Ritchie)
CELTIC (1) 1 (Crainie)
Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, McLaughlin, Duffy, Rooney, Cochrane, Docherty, Ring (McNeill), Hutchison, Ritchie.
Celtic: Bonner, Moyes, Reid, Aitken, McAdam, MacLeod, McStay, Sullivan (Provan), Burns, Crainie, McCluskey.

Scottish First

DUMBARTON (0) 0 RAITH (1) 2 (Ballantyne 2) DUNFERMLINE (1) 2 (Considine, Hegarty) AYR (1) 2 (McAllister, McInally)

EAST STIRLING (1) 1 (Grant MOTHERWELL (0) 2 (Forbes, Cleland)

HAMILTON (1) 2 (Donnelly, McAdam) QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0 HEARTS (2) 3 (McDonald, Robertson 2) ST JOHNSTONE (0) 0 KILMARNOCK 0 CLYDEBANK 0

QoS (1) 1 (Phillips) FALKIRK (1) 1 (McIntosh) 500

2,100

200

Scottish Second

BERWICK (1) 2 (Tait, Armstrong) ARBROATH (1) 2 (Gavine 2) 350 CLYDE (1) 3 (McCutcheon, Nevin pen Masterton)
BRECHIN (0) 1 (Hay pen) 450 EAST FIFE (0) 0 ALLOA (2) 2 (Murray, Paterson) 410

MEADOWBANK (0) 1 (Jobson pen) STRANRAER (0) 1 (Sweeney)

MONTROSE (1) 1 (Johnston) STIRLING (1) 2 (Colquhoun 2) STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 3 (Buchanan, Munn, Meakin)
COWDENBEATH (0) 0

Sunday, April 4

Fourth Division

DARLINGTON (0) 1 (McFadden) CREWE (0)

Monday, April 5

Fourth Division

MANSFIELD (0) 0 YORK (1) 2 (Laverick Ford)

Tuesday, April 6 First Division

BIRMINGHAM (0) 0

BIRMINCHAM (0) 0
EVERTON (1) 2 (Heath, Ainscow) 12,273
Birmingham: Wealands, Langan, Hawker, Van den
Hauwe, Scott, Curbishley, van Mierlo (Phillips), Dillon,
Harford, Evans, Whatmore.
Everton: Southall, Borrows, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Wright
(Eastoe), McMahon, Irvine, Heath, Sharp, Ainscow,

MIDDLESBROUGH 0

LEEDS 0 15.494 Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bailey, McAndrew, Baxter, Wood, Bolton, Otto, Hodgson, Ashcroft,

Leeds: Lukic, Cherry, Gray (F), Hird, Hart, Burns, Thomas, Graham, Worthington, Connor, Parlane.

SWANSEA (0) 3 (Marustik, Curtis, Latchford) Swansea: Davies, Marustik, Hadziabdic, Inwin, Kennedy, Rajkovic, Curtis, James (R), Stanley (James L), Stevenson, Latchford.

WBA: Grew, Arthur, Statham, Bennett (Brown), Wile, Robertson, Zondervan, Cross, Regis, Owen,

WEST HAM (0) 3 (Martin, Goddard 2)
WOLVES (1) 1 (Richards)
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Orr, Martin,
Devonshire, Van der Elst, Goddard, Cross, Brooking,

Wolves: Bradshaw, Humphrey, Palmer, Matthews, Pender, Coy, Hibbitt, Carr, Richards, Eves, Clarke.

Second Division

Q.P.R. (3) 3 (Hazell, Flanagan, Stainrod)
ORIENT (0) 0 10,531
QPR: Hucker, Fenwick, Gillard, Waddock, Hazell,
Roeder, Currie, Flanagan, Allen, Stainrod (Stewart),

Orient: Day, Foster, Peach, Fisher, Gray, Banjo, God-frey, Taylor (T), Houchen, Silkman, Sussex (McNeill).



Newcastle striker Imre Varadi.

WREXHAM (1) 4 (Edwards 2, Carrodus, Ron-NEWCASTLE (1) 2 (Varadi 2)

Wrexham: Niedzwiecki, Hill, Bater, Davis, Dowman, Ronson, Leman, McNeil, Edwards, Fox, Carrodus. Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Saunders Trewick (Whar-ton), Carney, Haddock, Mills, Martin, Varadi, Cart-

Third Division

BRISTOL CITY (0) 1 (Chandler) CARLISLE (1) 1 (Lee) FULHAM (1) 3 (Coney, Davies 2) DONCASTER (1) 1 (Snodin (I)), 5.081 GILLINGHAM (0) 3 (Sitton, Lee 2) CHESTERFIELD (2) 2 (Henderson 2)

MILLWALL (0) 1 (Horrix)
HUDDERSFIELD (2) 3 (Lillis, Cowling, Wilson)

PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (Rafferty) PRESTON (0) 1 (O'Riordan)

Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (Lucas) STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Park) 1 304 BURY (1) 1 Madden) HEREFORD (1) 1 (Laidlaw) 2 398

ROCHDALE (0) 0 HULL (0) 1 (Mutrie)

Scottish Cup

(Semi-Final replay)
RANGERS (2) 3 (Johnstone, Bett, Cooper)
FORFAR (1) 1 (Brash pen) At Hampden Park

Rangers: Stewart, Jardine, Dawson, McClelland, Jack-son, Bett, Cooper, Russell, Johnstone, Redford, MacDonald.

Forfar: Kennedy, Bennett, McPhee, Brown, Brash, Allan, Gallacher, Farningham, Hancock, Leitch (Watt), Clark (Porter).

Scottish First

RAITH (3) 3 (Ballantyne 2, Gibson) KILMARNOCK (2) 3 (Bryson, Clarke, Bourke)

Wednesday, April 7

European Cup

(Semi-Final, first-leg) ASTON VILLA (1) 1 (Morley) ANDERLECHT (0) 0

ANDERLECHT (0) 0

Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Williams, Evans, McNaught,
Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.
Anderlecht: Munaron, Peruzovic, Broos, Lozano, De
Groote, Vercauteren, De Greef, Renquin (Jovanic),
Petursson (Guerts), Coeck, Cluytens.

1.738

Cup-Winners' Cup

(Semi-Final, first-leg)

(Semi-Final, Instrucy)
TOTTENHAM (0) 1 (Roberts)
BARCELONA (0) 1 (Olmo)
41,555
Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, Miller (Jones), Price,
Hazard, Perryman, Roberts, Villa, Galvin, Hoddle,

Barcelona: Urruti, Sanchez, Olmo, Ramos, Manolo, Alesanco, Simonsen, Gerardo, Carrasco, Estella,

Under-21 Championship

(Quarter-Final, second leg)

(Quarter-Final, second reg, ENGLAND (2) 2 (Hateley 2) POLAND (0) 2 (Biernat, Baran) 6,680 England: Hesford, Ranson, Mabbutt, Reid, Procter, Caton, Peake, Ritchie, Hateley, Bannister (Hilaire),

Poland: Stawarz, Kakicki, Gaszlest, Frankowski, Matysik, Biernat, Turkowski, Ciolek, Buda, Palasz,

First Division

MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 0 LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Johnston) 50,967 Man Utd: Bailey, Duxbury, Albiston, Wilkins, Moran, Buchan (Grimes), Robson, McGarvey, Stapleton, Moses, Coppell.

Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Lawrenson, Kennedy, Whelan, Thompson, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, Johnston, Souness (McDermott).

IPSWICH (0) 1 (Steggles) 11,845 Sunderland: Turner, Hinnigan, Munro, Hindmarch, Chisholm, Elliott, Buckley, West, Rowell, Pickering,

Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, McCall, Mills (O'Callaghan), Osman, Steggles, Wark, Muhren, D'Avray, Brazil,

Second Division

CHELSEA (3) 4 (Hutchings, Lee 2, Fillery)
CAMBRIDGE (0) 1 (Smith pen) 6,192
Chelsea: Francis, Lee, Hutchings, Nutton, Droy, Pates, Rhoades-Brown, Chivers, Walker (Britton), Mayes,

Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Nicholls, Cartwright, O'Neill, Gibbins, Reilly (Gold-smith), Finney.

Third Division

OXFORD (2) 5 (Fogg pen, Shotton, Thomas,

E-UPS...RESULTS...SCO

Scottish Cup

(Semi-Final replay)
ABERDEEN (2) 3 (McGhee, Simpson, Weir)
ST MIRREN (1) 2 (McAvennie, Somner) (At Dens Park) 15,633

Aberdeen: Leighton, Rougvie, McMaster, Cooper, McLeish, Miller, Strachan, Simpson, McGhee, Hewitt,

St Mirren: Thomson, Beckett, McCormack, Richard-son, Fulton (Fitzpatrick), Copland, McDougall, Stark (Bone), Somner, McAvennie, Scanlon

Scottish Premier

MORTON (0) 1 (Rooney) DUNDEE UNITED (0) 1 (Milne) Moton: Bains, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Duffy, Ring, Docherty (McNeill), Cochrane, Hutchison (Busby), Ritchie. Dundee Utc. McAlpine, Holt, Stark, Gough, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Milne, Kirkwood, Reilly, Dodds.

PARTICK (1) 4 (Johnston 2, Watson, O'Hara) AIRORIE (0) 1 (Thompson) 3,000

Partick: Rough, McKinnon, Lapsley, Anderson, Dunlop, Watson, Park, Doyle, Johnston (Higgins), O'Hara,

Airdrie: Martin, Anderson (G), Rodger, Walker, March, Anderson (N), Flood, McKeown, Clark, Gordon,

Scottish First

DUMBARTON (2) 3 (Donnelly 2 (2 pens), Mont-AYR (1) 1(McInally)

FALKIRK (0) 0
EAST STIRLING (1) 3 (McGorm, Kettings, 1,500

Scottish Second

BERWICK (0) 2 (O'Connor 2) ALLOA (0) 0

STIRLING (0) 0 EAST FIFE (1) 2 (Thompson, O'Brien)

Friday, April 9

Second Division

BLACKBURN O Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Speight, Reeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Stonehouse, Bell, Garner, Brotherston. Oldham: McDonnell, Edwards, Ryan, Keegan, Firm,

Hoolickin, Wylde, Heaton, Palmer, McDonough, Atkin-

GRIMSBY (0) 3 (Whymark, Moore (K), Waters) BARNSLEY (2) 2 (Walker 2) 12,158 Grimsby: Batch, Moore (D), Crosby, Waters, Stone, Moore (K), Brolly (Ford), Kilmore, Whymark, Mitchell,

Barnsley: Horn, Longden (Martin), Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Law, Walker, Aylott, McHale, Birch



David Giles, Crystal Palace's scorer in the 1-1 draw at Watford.

CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 1 (Giles) 18,224
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Rostron, Taylor, Terry, Bolton, Callaghan, Blissett, Jenkins (Armstrong), Lohman,

Palace: Barron, Lovell, Hinshelwood, Price, Cannon, Gilbert, Giles, Smillie, Brooks, Mabbutt, Hilaire.

Third Division

BRENTFORD (0) 4 (Johnson, 2, Booker, MILLWALL (0) 1 (West)

PLYMOUTH (1) 2 (Nisbet, Sims) EXETER (0) 1 (Kellow pen)

SOUTHEND (2) 2 (Cusack pen, Mercer) WIMBLEDON (0) 0 4,779

Fourth Division

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Hockaday) WIGAN (0) 2 (Houghton, Bradd)

Saturday, April 10 First Division

LEEDS (0) 1 (Hart) Birmingham: Wealands, Broadhurst, Hawker, Van den Hauwe, Scott, Curbishley, Phillips, Dillon, Harford (Handysides), Evans, Whatmore, Leeds: Lukic, Hird, Gray (E), Thomas, Hart, Burns, Parlane, Graham, Worthington, Connor, Barnes.

BRIGHTON (0) 2 (Ritchie, Robinson)
ARSENAL (0) 1 (Talbot)
Brighton: Digweed, Shanks, Nelson, Case, Foster, Gatting, Stevens, Ritchie, Robinson, McNab, Thomas, Arsenal: Wood, Hollins, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Whyte, Meade, Sunderland, Davis, Robson, Nicholas,

EVERTON (1) 3 (Sharp, Lyons, Heath) MAN UTD (1) 3 (Coppell 2, Grimes) 29.317

Everton: Southall (Lodge), Borrows, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Lyons, McMahon, Irvine, Heath, Sharp, Ainscow, Ross. Man Utd: Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Wilkins, Moran, Duxbury, Robson, McGarvey, Stapleton, Moses (Corpea) Duxbury, Robson (Grimes), Coppell.

LIVERPOOL (2) 5 (Lee, Neal pen, Johnston, Kennedy, Rush) 40,112 Man City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Bond,

Caton, Ryan, Reeves, Kinsey, Hartford, Wilson. Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Lawrenson, Kennedy, Whelan, Thompson, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, Johnston,

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 3 (Wood, Bolton, Bailey) NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0 10,402 Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bailey, McAndrew, Baxter, Wood, Bolton, Otto, Hodgson (Shearer), Ash-

Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Goodwin, Hunt, Richards, Chiedozie, Harkouk (Christie), McCulloch, Hooks, Mair.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (0) 0

WOLVES (0) 1 (Gray) 15,691 Nottm Forest: Shilton, Kendall, Bowyer, Gunn, Young, Gray, Roeber, Wallace, Fashanu, Proctor (Plummer), Robertson. Wolves: Bradshaw, Humphrey, Palmer, Villazan (Gray),

Pender, Coy, Hibbitt, Carr, Richards, Eves, Clarke.

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 3 (Nicholl (og), McNaught, Morley) 22,801
Southampton: Katalinic, Golac, Holmes, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Wallace, Arm-

Nicholi, Waldon, Strong, Ball. Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Williams, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Whithe,

STOKE (0) 0

STORE (I) 0

SUNDERLAND (1) 1 (Buckley)

Stoke: Fox, Parkin, Hampton, Dodd, Watson, McAughtrie, McIlroy, Chapman, Biley (O'Callaghan), Bracewell, Griffiths.

Sunderland: Turner, Hinnigan, Munro, Clarke, Chisholm, Elliott, Buckley, West, Rowell (Ursem), Pickering, Cumping

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 (Hoddle)

IPSWICH (0) 0 45,215 Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Hazard, Perryman, Villa, Archibald (Brooke), Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks.

Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, McCall, Mills, Osman, Steggles, Wark (O'Callaghan), Muhren, D'Avray, Brazil,

WBA (1) 1 (Mackenzie)
COVENTRY (1) 2 (Thompson, Whitton) 12,718 WBA: Grew, Batson, Statham, Bennett, Wile, Robertson, Zondervan, Cross (Brown), Regis, Owen, Mackenzie.

Coventry: Sealey, Butterworth, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Whitton, Francis, Hateley, Thompson,

SWANSEA (1) 1 (James (R)) West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard (Neighbour), Orr, Martin, Devonshire, Van der Elst, Goddard, Cross,

Swansea: Davies, Marustik (Robinson), Hadziabdic, Irwin, Kennedy, Rajkovic, Curtis, James (R), Stanley, Stevenson, Latchford.

Second Division

BARNSLEY 0

Barnsley: Horn, Law, Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Evans, Walker, Aylott, McHale, Birch

Derby: Banovic, Barton, Buckley, Skivington, Sheridan, McAlle, George, Attley, Wilson (Hector), Swindlehurst,

BOLTON (0) 2 (Henry pen, Reid)
WREXHAM (0) 0 6,221
Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Bennett, Henry, Jones,
Gowling, Chandler, Cantello, Foster, Reid, Thompson

Wrexham: Niedzwiecki, Jones, Bater, Davis, Dowman, Ronson, Leman, McNeil, Edwards, Fox, Carrodus (Vinter).

CAMBRIDGE (0) 1 (Reilly)

LUTON (0) 1 (Turner)

Cambridge: Webster, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Streete, Cartwright, Reilly, Gibbins, Finney, Christie.

Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Money, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghy, Antic, Stein, White, Turner (Fuccillo), Moss.

CARDIFF (1) 2 (Bennett (D), Kitchen)

ORIENT (1) 1 (Foster) 5,689
Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Henderson, Pontin, Mullen,
Polycarpou, Grapes, Micallef, Bennett (D) (Maddy),
Stevens, Kitchen.

Orient: Day, Foster, Peach, Fisher, Gray, Margerrison, Godfrey, Taylor, Houchen, Silkman, McNeill.

CHELSEA (0) 2 (Droy, Lee)

CHELSEA (I) 2 (Broy) 18,365
Chelsea: Francis, Lee, Locke, Nutton, Droy, Pates,
Rhoades-Brown (Wilkins), Chivers, Walker, Mayes,

OPR: Hucker, Neill, Gillard, Waddock, Hazell, Roeder, Currie, Flanagan, Allen, Stainrod, Gregory.

NEWCASTLE 0

LEICESTER 0 Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Saunders, Trewick, Barton, Carney, Mills, Martin (Shoulder), Varadi, Cart-

Leicester: Wallington, Friar, Leet, Peake, May, O'Neill, Lynex, Lineker, Melrose (Walsh), Wilson, MacDonald.

NORWICH (2) 5 (O'Neill, Deehan 3, Jack) CHARLTON (0) 0 14.908 Norwich: Woods, Haylock, Downs, Barham, Walford, Watson, Bennett (Jack), O'Neill, Deehan, Bertschin, Mendham.

Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Elliott, Mehmet, Gritt, Phillips, Ambrose (Lansdowne), Walsh, Hales, Berry, Robinson.



Tottenham star Glenn Hoddle

MATCHES

Saturday, May 1st, 1982

ARSENAL v WEST HAM

THERE are not many goals scored at Highbury these days, but considering that The Gunners have already beaten their London rivals 2-1 at Upton Park earlier in the season Arsenal fans may be hoping for another victory like they had six years ago when The Hammers were beaten 6-1 (Alan Ball two, (one pen), George Armstrong, Brian Kidd

West Ham, however, have quite a fine record at Highbury where, in 29 League visits, they have more often than not escaped defeat. The tally is Arsenal 11 wins, West Ham eight wins, and ten

games drawn.

A. VILLA v MAN. CITY

BACK in the old days Villa could generally be relied upon to beat Manchester City at Villa Park, and, in fact, City won only three League games from their first visit in 1899 up to World War Two. Since the War, however, they have won four times and drawn on seven

occasions. Indeed, if one looks at their most recent visit City have lost only

once in their last five, winning once and drawing the other three.

In December, Dennis Tueart scored the only goal to give City victory at Maine Road and if they can win at Villa Park on Saturday it will be their second League double over Villa in five sea-

COVENTRY v SPURS

WHEN these two sides met at White Hart Lane in December, Coventry pro-vided one of the shocks of the day by winning 2-1.

It may be a different story at Highfield Road on Saturday, however, for Spurs have only lost there once in their last eight League visits. That was back in 1973-74, when full-back Mick Coop got the only goal. Since then Spurs have won two and drawn four League games at Highfield Road.

LIVERPOOL v N. FOREST

FOREST have only scored one goal in their last eight League clashes with Liverpool. That was in September, 1979, the the last time Forest beat Liverpool, and Garry Birtles got the only goal of the game at the City Ground. In visits to Anfield, Forest have scored

only once in their last six League games — a penalty by lan Moore in a 3-1 defeat in August, 1971.

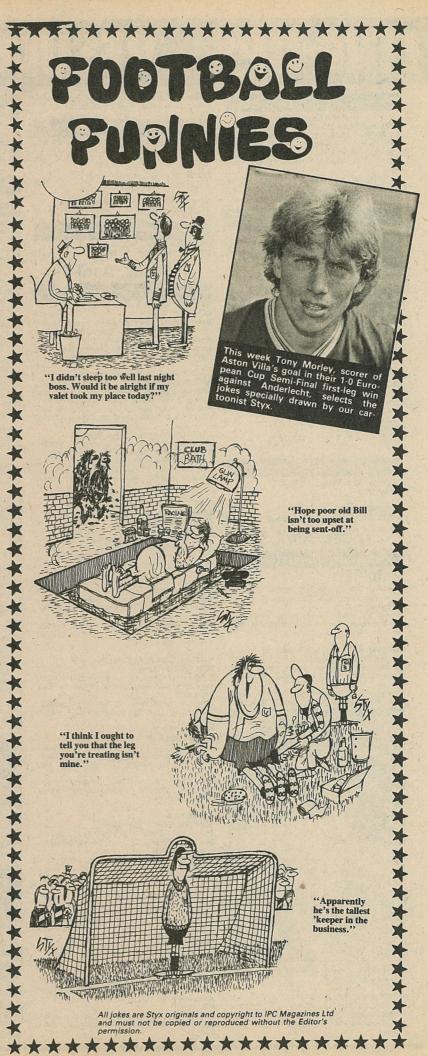
MAN. U v SOUTHAMPTON

THE last time Southampton completed a League double over United was in 1968-69, which was the last time they

won a League game at Old Trafford.
Since then, Saints have played nine
First Division games on this ground,
losing six and drawing three, including
last season when the result was 1-1.

However, in the last four of these defeats there was never more than a single goal difference. Indeed, when Southampton beat United 3-2 at The Dell earlier this season it was the first time in the last 11 League clashes between these two clubs that either side had been able to score more than a single goal.







and football writers who have to decide on the two major individual awards in the Scottish game.

Who is going to be Players' Player of the Year and who is going to get the vote of the Scottish Football Writers' Association?

The awards will be announced within six days of one another the writers' on May 3 and the players' on May 9 — and frankly I think it will be the same man who will be collecting both trophies.

Certainly he will be getting my . Paul Sturrock of Dundee United. He has had a magnificent season, playing himself right into Jock Stein's World Cup plans, being hugely responsible for United's great run in Europe and scoring

goals galore. In all honestly he has been the country's only totally outstanding name this World Cup season, although a lot of other guys have provided plenty of consistency Roy Aitken of Celtic in particular.

Remembered

I am sure Paul will get the awards, but really season 81-82 should be remembered in Scotland as the year

of the goalkeeper.

It is no secret that in the past we have always been a shade weak in the number one spot. Several Englishmen have even gone as far as to describe Scottish League goalkeeping as a joke, and quite frankly a few years ago compared to players like Springett, Banks and Shilton, I suppose it was.

Changed days now, though. The Scottish Premier Division is rich in quality goalkeepers, with three of them playing themselves into contention for Spain and not an Anglo Scot at the races.

That trio of Alan Rough of Partick Thistle, Billy Thomson of St Mirren

and Jim Leighton of Aberdeen can match the best that England has to offer. Leighton has made such progress this season that he is now challenging Thomson for the number two spot to Rough in the international side.

And yet the one guy in the Premier Division who is really in Alan Rough's class has no chance of making the Scotland side.

I am talking about Celtic's Pat Bonner, who much though he loves Glasgow as his adopted home, was born in Eire and is a certainty to become their number one choice goalkeeper for the 1984 European Championship bid.

Indeed Pat, known as "Pakky" at Celtic Park, was unlucky not to

make the finals of the World Cup in that his nation were drawn in a tough group along with France, Belgium and Holland.

Anyway, add the experience of Hamish McAlpine of Dundee United and the lightning reactions of John Martin of Airdrie to that squad of goalkeepers and you begin to accumulate quite a get together of talent.

Acknowledged

So wouldn't it be terrific if the year of the goalkeeper was acknowledged by Pat Bonner winning the young Player of the Year award when we players get

down to voting?

Mind you, I have to admit that he has some stiff competition from outfield players.

Aberdeen have two of the best in striker John Hewitt and defender Neale Cooper, both members of the Scottish professional youth team who returned undefeated from the European Championship Finals in West Germany a year ago.

And while I am on the subject, allow me to congratulate the youth team for qualifying for this year's political in-fighting with his board and so left a grubby signing off on a career which was otherwise without blemish at Broomfield.

Finals in Finland at the end of May

Right enough, Scotland's playing future is in good hands. I really began to appreciate that when I looked around at possible candidates for my vote as Young

Partick Thistle, for example, have

by beating England.

Player of the Year.

style.

Maurice Johnston who has managed to break through and make a name for himself in a struggling team, no easy task. Jags fans must be reminded of Jim Melrose, now at Leicester City, by Maurice's red hair and go ahead

Morton have Under-21 international centre-half Joe McLaughlin, and St Mirren's Frank McAvennie plays in the same international side after starting the season as a Saints reserve player. But before I wrap up this Tartan Talk, I would like to give my salute to one of the older hands of the He is Bobby Watson, who quit as manager of Airdrie after some

I like Bobby Watson. He was an honest man and did a terrific job for the Broomfield club. I don't know what went on behind closed doors but I think that it is sad that he left the club under a cloud.

He was straightforward and to the point, though perhaps not always the diplomat.

I wish his successor — Bill Munro - all the luck in the world, for Bill has already tasted boardroom troubles when he was with Clydebank.

I hope he doesn't make it two in a

See you in two weeks . . .

TARTAN TALK FROM RANGERS' ALLY DAWSON NEXT WEEK

Road Sensatio

EEDS United are five years behind every other First Division club.

Who says so? None other than Leeds United manager Allan Clarke - and he should know.

But what does he mean when he

what does no mean when he says that?

"I have told my directors that this club has stood still for at least five years. They have not gone out and competed for the best schoolboys — and therefore there's been no flow of talent into

"The previous managers are responsible for that — and it is a situation I have inherited that I could have done without.

"Hardly any Leeds youngsters have come through the junior ranks, so that any injection has had to be made with a cheque

"Over the past few seasons
we've paid out large sums of
money for players like Tony Currie,
Ray Hankin, Brian Flynn, Alex
Sabella, Paul Hart, Arthur Graham,
Duncan McKenzie, Brian Greenhoff, Alan Curtis, John Hawley, Frank Gray, Peter Barnes,

"This has got to stop. We must produce our own material and only now are we starting to sow the seeds for the future.

"It's the only way any club can survive successfully and yet for too long Leeds United have tried to

Clarke arrived at Elland Road in September, 1980 with the proud boast that he would win the club a trophy within three years and take

"The media have put extra rie media nave put extra
pressure on us by talking about
relegation — I love pressure, I
might as well be in a coffin without
it — but I've banned that word at the club, because we must think positively.

"We've had a sticky patch and I won't pretend it's been pleasant going into the dressing room at times. But I would worry if the players were smiling after getting beaten. I want every player at

Kenny Burns and others, yet the

Peter Barnes cost Leeds the best part of a million pounds, yet manager Clarke claims that he and the other big-money signings have failed to improve United.



them back to greatness.

He now has to admit that is an unrealistic goal — unless you count the West Riding Cup!

"It's going to take longer to rebuild this club than I originally invariant. This ide is not small."

imagined. This side is not capable of winning things. We will do well to survive in the First Division this

season.
"We won't go down," he says
defiantly with a glare that would
melt a statue, and a clenched fist
thumping his table, but Clarke knows he has a fight on his hands.

His side went seven matches without registering a single goal, there has been talk of player unrest, his most reliable defenders Paul Hart and Trevor Cherry are both on the transfer list, and Clarke himself acknowledges that he hasn't enjoyed a minute of this

season.
"It started disastrously with a 5-1 defeat on the opening day at Swansea and it has never got better," he says.

Leeds United to hurt when they've

ost.
"They must have pride in the club to play for me. I've granted the wishes of those players who've told me they want to leave, but no

way will they go until I consider I have suitable replacements."
Brave words, but Clarke may have to swallow his pride next season whether Leeds United are still in the First Division or not.

Chairman Manny Cussins has already warned that he wants the playing staff cut to around 23, so to save on wages Clarke will be forced to get rid of about 15 professionals.

Paul Hart's transfer fee has been halved to £300,000, which would seen fairly reasonable for someone talked of as an England international of the future, and players like Brian Greenhoff, Brian Flynn, Gwyn Thomas, Steve Balcombe, Carl Harris and Gary Hamson seem bound to move on at the end of the season.

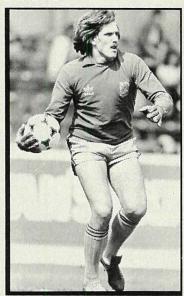
Phil's double

Has it ever happened that two players with exactly the same forename and surname have played against each other in the same match?

JIMMY LIAPIS, AUSTRALIA.

know of one Well. Jimmy and involving players in the same

position, at that.
For both home and away First Division games between Q.P.R. and Wolves in the 1975-76 season saw a Phil Parkes playing in goal at each end.



Former Q.P.R. 'keeper Phil Parkes, now playing for West Ham

King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter ublished. Overseas readers receive a special OOT T-shirt. When writing, please state size: small, medium or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Accrington Stanley

When did Accrington Stanley drop out of the Football League, and who were their last opponents in it?

PHILIP BOWDEN, NEWPORT.

Accrington, one of the League's original 12 clubs in 1888, resigned

original 12 clubs in 1888, resigned through severe financial problems in March, 1962, Philip.

Their last League game was a 4-0 defeat at Crewe on 3rd March, 1962. Their last home game was a 2-0 defeat by Rochdale the previous Saturday.

Goals for Spurs

What's the highest number of League goals Spurs have scored in one season? STEVEN BUCHANAN. ABERDEEN.

It's 115, Steven, in their famous

League/Cup "Double" season of 1960-

Bobby Smith led the scorers with 28 goals; followed by Les Allen (23), Cliff Jones (15), John White (13), and Terry Dyson (12).

Martin Chivers

I've searched through your "Super Focuses" to try and find a famous player who shares my birthday of 27th April — but no luck! Can you help?

MUSA SALAMI, NIGERIA.

I'm afraid I can't amongst present-day stars, Musa, but I have found one

from the not-so-distant past.
He's striker Martin Chivers, who
scored 13 goals in 24 full England internationals in the early 1970s — plus
seven more in 17 Under-23 games.

HORTPASSES

 Q.P.R. were founded in 1885, and elected to the Football League in 1920. They played in Division One in the 1968-69 season, and again between 1973-74 and 1978-79 inclusive. They were runners-up to Liverpool in 1975-76.

(GRANT KEILLER, Australia)

• Frank Worthington played in eight full internationals for England, scoring two goals.

(ERIC BLAIR, Brighton)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.



Goalscoring 'keeper

What's the highest number of goals ever scored in Football League games by a goalkeeper in a single season?

MUCHAEL MUNLEY,

Chesterfield's Arnold Birch takes that one, Michael.

He scored five goals in the old Third Division (North) in 1923-24 — although, as you might guess, they were all from the penalty-spot.



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in this advertisement.

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GARY BAILEY Acrylic

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SUKAN/REUSCH 124	Wet.Dry	Blue smooth foam rubber	White polyurethane	Blue grooved foam rubber	Y,S,M,L	£11.95
SUKAN/REUSCH 122 *	Wet, Dry	Blue smooth foam rubber	White polyurethane	Black grooved foam rubber	Y,S,M,L	£12.75
UHL 025	Wet.Dry	White smooth foam rubber	Black PU velvet	White dimpled foam rubber	S,M,L	£12.95
UHL 034*	Wet.Dry	Red smooth foam rubber	White polyurethane	Red pimpled rubber	S,M,L	£13.50
CLEMENCE PRO	Wet.Dry	White dimpled foam rubber	Red polyurethane	White grooved foam rubber	Y.S.M.L	£14.95

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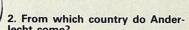


TRUE OR FALSE?

- Tottenham's Steve Archibald played for Scottish clubs Clyde and Aberdeen before moving South.
- 2. Hull City play their home Fourth Division games at Boothferry Park.
- 3. Ron Atkinson is Manchester's United's fifth manager since the
- 4. Liverpool midfield player Ronnie Whelan is a Northern Ireland international star.
- 5. Ipswich Town's last Football League Championship-winning season was in 1971-72.

GOALKEEPERS

- 1. Can you identify the young London goalkeeper (right).
- 2. Everton manager Howard Kendall paid which Fourth Division club £150,000 for Neville Southall prior to the start of this season?
- 3. Who is England's most capped 'keeper with 73 full international appearances?
- 4. Jim Stewart is keeping goal for which Scottish Premier Division club?
- 5. Notts County's number one Raddy Avramovic is an international player for which country?



- 3. In a bruising match, Tottenham were held 1-1 at home by Bar-
- 4. Did Graham Roberts, Glenn Hoddle or Garth Crooks score the Tottenham goal?
- 5. Can you name the Tottenham

COMPUTER **PUZZLE**

PICTURE PUZZLE

Mark Lawrenson

Programme this star player by plugging the gaps in his

- 1. Mark began his League career with -..
- 2. In 73 League appearances he scored - goals for the club.
- 3. He was then transferred to -
- 4. In 1979 they finished in position to gain promotion to the First Division.
- 5. In April, 1977, Mark made his full international debut for the Republic of Ireland against -

Computer performance rating: 5 Superb; 4 Excellent; 3 Good.

Study the action photograph taken during a West Bromwich Albion v. Nottingham Forest League clash this season, and see if you can answer the following questions about the game.

- 1. Can you identify the West Bromwich player on the left?
- 2. And the Forest player on the
- The Forest star began his League career with which club?
- 4. You should all know that Brian Clough (Forest) and Ronnie Allen (West Brom) are the managers . . . who did they replace?
- 5. Is is true that Forest have won the First Division Championship more times than West Bromwich?

ANSWERS:

PICTURE PUZZLE 1. Ally Robertson. 2. Ian Wallace. 3. In Scotland with Dumbarton. 4. Clough replaced Allan Brown and Allen took over from Ron Atkinson. 5. No — they have both won the title once.

GOALKEEPERS. 1. Peter Hucker (Queens Park Rangers). 2. Bury. 3. Gordon Banks. 4. Rangers. 5. Yugoslavia.

TRUE OR FALSE. 1. True. 2. True. 3. False — he is a Repubsixth. 4. False — he is a Republic of Ireland player. 5. False — it was 1961-62, not 1971-72.

COMPUTER PUZZLE. 1. Preston. North End. 2. Two. 3. Brighton. 4. Second. 5. Poland.

Roberts. 5. Chris BRITAIN IN EUROPE. 1. Tony Morley. 2. Belgium. 3. Bar-gelong. 1. Bobotis



Aston Villa and Tottenham were involved in European Cup and Cup-Winners' Cup Semi-Finals, first-leg games. Can you answer the following questions about the ties?

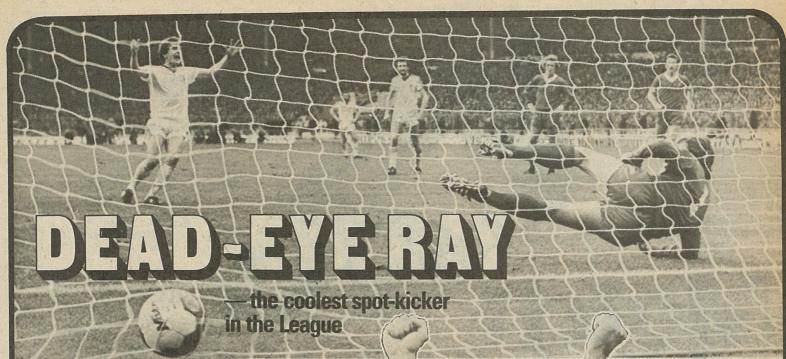
1. Aston Villa beat Anderlecht 1-0 at Villa Park. Who scored the goal?

lecht come?

celona. Which club took the lead?

player who appeared as a substitute in place of Paul Miller?

ACROSS: (3) Baker. (4) Neil. (6) Noel. (11) Award. (13) Nigel. (14) Friar. (15) Young. (17) Bobby. (18) Lunge. (19) Larne. (20) Ring. (22) Dean. (23) Caton. DOWN: (1) Paul. (2) Fern. (4) Neighbour. (5) Italy. (7) Old. (8) Lawrenson. (9) Maguire. (10) Endow. (12) James. (16) Glebe. (19) Len. (21) Gray. (22) Droy.



EST HAM'S Ray Stewart is the king of the penalty-takers in the First Division this season.

Dead-eye Stewart, coolest shot in the League, is hard on the heels of Francis Lee's all-time penalty record of 15 in one season as the current campaign enters the final furlong.

With seven games to play, Stewart had 11 penalties to his credit.

But Stewart, sure to be a crucial player in Jock Stein's World Cup plans this summer, has no interest in records as far as penalties are concerned. His only interest is in maintaining the challenge which the job brings him.

Some players would hide from the pressure Stewart thrives on. Whether it is lining up a last minute penalty in a Wembley Cup Final or a crucial League game with opposing fans creating a crescendo of boos and jeers, Stewart is

equally happy.

He admits: "I just love the challenge it brings me. I have always wanted to take penalties, even in my days at Dundee United. I like the responsibility. It is also a good chance to score, and full-backs don't get that many opportunities

to get on the scoresheet in the conventional way.
"I react very well to a bit of pressure, I don't know why. In many ways, it is easier for me to score when the pressure is on than when it doesn't matter so much.

"When you are leading by three or four goals, I find it much harder to convert penalties. Maybe you are able to relax for a couple of seconds if your side has that kind of lead, and that brief spell of relax-

ation can cost you the spot-kick.'

Stewart selects two penalties, during his West Ham days, as the ones which mattered most.

The first and, he thinks, the hardest was during West Ham's run to the 1980 F.A. Cup win. In front of 36,393 fans in the Quarter-Final against Aston Villa at Upton Park, Stewart had to convert a crucial second-half spot-kick which proved to be the only goal of the

tie.
"I couldn't possibly let all those people down," he says. "It was in the last few minutes and everyone was singing about Wembley. I'd have looked a right mug if I'd missed it."

Stewart says the other one, in the League Cup Final at Wembley against Liverpool which earned Hammers a replay, was almost as tough. But if you are looking for the secret of Stewart's success, well - there isn't one.

'Depends'

The friendly Scot says quite openly: "I don't have any set pattern or plans, it all depends on how I feel on the day.

"If you watched reruns of my last four penalties, they might all be different, they might all be the same. I don't have any set ploy — I sometimes blast them, I some-

times tap them in.
"All I do is concentrate hard when I'm going to take a penalty. If you let your concentration slip, you are finished.

"But I do think a side should have a regular penalty taker. It is far more professional for one player to pick up the ball and march up to take it.

"I always feel it's an absurd situation when you see a professional

ation when you see a professional side dithering about who should

Stewart sends Liverpool 'keeper Ray Clemence the wrong way during the 1981 League Cup Final at Wembley.

take it. That's the way penalties are missed.

"I suppose the more penalties

you take, the harder it becomes to succeed because you know people watch films of you taking them. "It's all about kidding each other, you and the goalkeeper. It's a bit of cat and mouse. I try to watch and see what the 'keeper is thinking, how he is behaving.

"I remember in the League Cup this season against West Brom, we had a penalty in each game — one up there, one down here in the replay. That's the hardest because you're facing the same goalie.

'Furious'

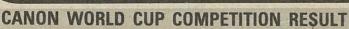
"When I scored against Notts County recently, the County players told their 'keeper which way to dive — and he went the other way. I put it in the side they had told him to cover and they were furious.

"But I don't blame any 'keeper for failing to stop a penalty. And anyway, there is no guarantee which way I'll put them."

Stewart feels that West Ham have been given so many penalties this season because of the ball carrying ability of players like Devonshire and Brooking.

"They tend to get into opponents' penalty-areas with the ball at their feet and some defenders panic and haul them down," he

Whatever the reason, Hammers are certainly fortunate to have a consistent, reliable penalty taker like Stewart. The Scot plays the role of executioner very well indeed.



In our Canon World Cup competition, readers were invited to place eight captions for a featured picture in order as being most apt and amusing. Having considered all entries,

the judges chose the following

selection as being the best received:

received:

1 - J; 2 - B; 3 - E; 4 - L; 5 - K;
6 - A; 7 - C; 8 - D.

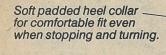
The sender of this, Richard Hough of Preston, is duly awarded our magnificent first

prize of a World Cup holiday for himself and a companion. The holiday includes tickets for eight matches (including one Semi Final and the Final), return flights, hotel accommodation and transportation.

Senders of the two next best attempts each win second prizes

of a Canon AF 35 ML camera plus carrying case. They are: Warren Berdo, Fleet, and Kevin Gibbons, London SW9.

The three third prizes of Canon Four-in-one calculators go to Stuart Bond, Hunstanton, Paul Falcoa, Salford; and Calum Urquhart, Peterhead.



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F United don't win the title, and our hopes look slim now, the lack of goals from midfield will be a major factor in the disaster.

Yes, disaster. That's how our fans will see it if the Championship goes elsewhere. They expect success and anything else is looked upon as very much second best.

After two early Cup knockouts, we've only had the League to concentrate on. Add to this the near £3 million spent by manager Ron Atkinson and you can see why our fans were looking to us to win the First Division.

I should have scored more goals. So should Bryan Robson. And Remi Moses. We all know it. A midfield man can reasonably expect to score around ten goals a season, but we'll be lucky if we reach double figures between us in the League.

I used to notch nine or ten a season when I was with Chelsea, so why not now? I wish I knew. It certainly isn't for the want of trying.

I've been getting into some good positions, and so have Bryan and Remi. We've lacked confidence, though, and we've been snatching at shots.

Practice won't help. You can fire shots at goal for an hour in training but it doesn't mean it'll be alright on the night.

Things you can do in training without any pressure aren't as easy to do during a match. The fact that our goal rate is so poor plays on our minds, and seeing opposing 'keepers make blinding saves doesn't

outplayed Liverpool but couldn't put the ball in the net.

Frank Stapleton even missed a pen-

alty . . . then they sneaked a goal.

It was a similar story against West
Brom and you could feel the relief when Kevin Moran — who's had a fine season in defence and goal-

scoring — netted the winner.

Our target now is obviously to win every game and keep our fingers crossed.

It's upset us to see reports that we'd rather play away from Old Trafford. I can't believe any Manchester United player would prefer to play anywhere else.

Our home form may have been disappointing, but Old Trafford is still the place to play.

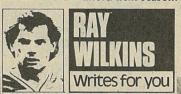
Frustrations

I can understand our supporters' frustrations. Only 38,717 saw our home game against West Brom. I thought there would have been more, especially as there was some 'needle' attached to the match.

Many fans seem to have given up on us, though. The team has been frustrated and the crowd has shown its impatience by booing.

If I can offer an excuse it's that we have four new players in the team from last season and it can take time to find the right blend and understanding.

I'm sure matters will improve and I also believe that one way or another European football will return to Old Trafford next season.



Taking three points from South-ampton this Saturday at Old Trafford is imperative. Saints' away form has been terrible, and with this in mind they've done well to sustain a Championship challenge for as long as they have.

Lawrie McMenemy conceded the title over Easter and I believe the prolonged absence of Steve Moran has had a lot to do with this.

Together, Steve and Kevin Keegan were as deadly as any pair of strikers in the League. With Steve out for the season because of back injury, even more onus has been with Kevin to score and the little feller's done as well, no, better than anyone could have expected.

He looks like ending the season as the First Division's top scorer and he's a man we'll have to watch closely on Saturday.

Maybe Kevin has lost just a little zip, but experience has more than taught him to compensate for this. Kevin Moran will probably pick him up and Kevin (our Kevin) knows he mustn't dive in or let the England skipper turn. Once he's away from his marker, that's it.

Keegan's a star in every respect. He's an infectious player who makes those around him play. Off the field I've learnt a lot from him and if I ever become captain of England I'll have picked up more than a few hints from Kev.

Kevin will no doubt be eager to make up for the disappointment of the best goal he's never scored, which came during our visit to The Dell this season. Television showed superb over-the-shoulder scissors kick that flew in the net . . . but was disallowed for offside.

"The goal that never was. Kevin Keegan's shot against Manchester United at The Dell is disallowed because David Armstrong (no. 10) was offside."





OOTBALL'S most amazing deal of the season . . . and it transformed Mick Harford from a victim of Bristol City's financial crash to a First Division matchwinner. All in 48 traumatic hours!

When the final history of football is written, I've got to be in their somewhere. Surely the only player ever who belonged to three clubs in one day!" says the burly striker now with relegation threatened Birmingham City.

The day of the transfer deadline arrived with Harford as a Bristol City player. "Then a call came through to Ashton Gate confirming that Ron Saunders wanted me to sign at St. Andrews. After everything that we had been through at

Ashton Gate, it was a dream come true," says Mick.
But it wasn't that simple. City still owed Newcastle £100,000 of the £150,000 they had paid to sign Harford more than six months earlier. So the first step was to release him on a free transfer — so that he could rejoin Newcastle.

'Spinning'

That was stage one. The next move came with Birmingham agreeing to pay £100,000 to Newcastle to get the player they had wanted from Bristol in the first place. Little wonder that Mick looks back and says: "It took days for my head to stop spinning."

His senses cleared fast enough for 90 minutes against Brighton at

for 90 minutes against Brighton at St. Andrews, however, as he thun-dered out a brilliant First Division debut against England's latest cen-

tre-half hope, Steve Foster. He won duel after duel against Foster in aerial combat and finally headed in the 67th minute decisive

Dave Langan pumped in a deep cross; I got up above Steve and my header found the inside of the far post. After everything that had happened to me, that had to be the finest moment of my career," says

Mick.
"I could not have asked for a better start. A winning goal in your

Harford (dark shirt) beats Leeds United's Gwyn Thomas to the ball.



first Division One game is something every player dreams about. To achieve it after all the turmoil I had experienced at Ashton Gate

had experienced at Ashton Gate just left me on cloud nine.
"I'll never forget that game. I'm told that St Andrews was well below capacity, but the size of the crowd, the noise and the atmosphere after the empty terraces of Ashton Gate made it seem a world

apart."
He didn't end there. Next stop
was Anfield for the first time in his Make Allied to the first time in his career: Blues lost that game but Mick scored again and says: "Hit-ting the target against Liverpool on their own pitch was another magic moment.

"Now I'm determined to keep it going. I could not have signed for a better manager than Ron Saun-ders. He was in the same business as me and had a tremendous scoring record - he can only help me to become an improved striker.

'Skill'

"There is a lot of work to be done. Obviously the skill level is far higher than the Third Division; the

higher than the Third Division; the same applies from my 19 games for Newcastle in the Second. Most of all, I need to find more pace.
"At 6 feet 2 inches and 13 stone, I'm a big lad. To make that count in the First Division, I've got to move faster. I've been surprised at the speed that the game moves at at the top level and I finish feeling really tired. really tired.

"But the great thrill is to play in football of that quality. The balls are played in to you far quicker and with much greater accuracy: in return, you have to respond with equal skill in your use of the ball.



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Justin won't forget his passport. He did on his first trip with Forest.

my arrival at Nottingham Forest.

Believe me, I shall lap up every pass, every tackle, every goal of this summer's World Cup, even though my ambitions to win a place in the England side went sour in the winter.

It promises to be the best World Cup since Pele, Tostao, Jairzinho and Rivelino powered Brazil to victory over Italy in the 1970 Mexico Final.

England will qualify from their group, I'm confident of that, though I feel a trifle anxious about the well-being of our secret weapon, Trevor Francis.

He could be our match winner, but will he be fully fit for the Finals which start next month? A series of unfortunate injuries after some memorable goals had sent the Manchester City fans into ecstasy and a two-match ban after a bad day against Everton could have blunted his sharpness.

On the bal

Hopefully, he'll be back on song helping England reach the second

I'm praying that the Finals will be played in a sporting manner. Barcelona's outrageous behaviour at Tottenham Hotspur, for which both clubs were fined, Spurs unfairly in my opinion, serves as a reminder to anyone stupid enough to believe that the Spaniards will allow other countries to invade their territory and walk away with the trophy without the stiffest opposition.

Referees will have to be strong and that great English ref Clive White, from Harrow, near London, will no doubt set his colleagues a fine example in how to be firm but fair, his trademark whenever I've

seen him.

Marvellous

Looking forward to the 1986 World Cup Finals, I'd put some money on Arsenal's defender Chris Whyte playing for England in Colombia.

His reward for a marvellous start to his Highbury career came when he was called-up for the England Under-21 European Championship Semi-Final game against Scotland at Hampden Park.

England's secret weapon — Trevor Francis. But will he be

His coolness under pressure reminds me of the great West German Franz Beckenbauer.

'M planning the trip of a lifetime this summer... to find my long lost dad.

Eighteen years ago, when I was a three-year-old toddler, my father walked out on my mother. He has never been seen by us since that fateful day.

I spent some time at a Dr Barnardo's home until a lovely couple in East Anglia shouldered the responsibility of bringing me

Now, like Alex Haley, author of the smash television series 'Roots' who traced his ancestors in Africa, I plan to trek to Nigeria for a reunion with my dad.

The summit meeting between Chief Patrick Fashanu — yes my dad's a tribal leader - and Justin Fashanu, of Nottingham Forest and England Under-21, promises to be just as momentous as any of the tear-jerking reunions in that series Roots'.

Misery

You might wonder what I'm doing attempting to meet someone who brought so much misery to my dear mother, who later remarried.

Every man has a right to know his father, and although I shall probably never understand why mine chose to abandon us and leave mum to struggle on her own, I harbour no grudges.

I have made my own enquiries

and it seems that my father, who runs a law firm near Lagos, would make me welcome. You might be surprised to learn that he's a legal eagle. Not all tribal chiefs live in

mud huts these days you know! Mother, whom I see in London quite a lot, knows of my intentions. She appreciates that I just want to meet him and talk about the past.

The reunion has been made possible by a Nigerian newspaper who heard of my football exploits, put two and two together, and realised that my father was living in their midst. Good investigative reporting, I'd call that.

I'll keep you posted on developments, which promise to offer me a great deal of pleasure at the end of an unforgettable year in which I was sold by Norwich for a £1 million and have had more than my fair share of ups and downs since



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That's the judgment of many shrewd soccer critics North of the Border and the reasoning behind their thinking is simple. English football frowns upon the tackle from behind while Scottish referees turn a blind eye.

Pittodrie manager Alex Ferguson, who insists he has no intention of letting his precious

property leave Aberdeen, says:
"It's a tragedy that Scottish
legislation still permits the tackle
from behind.
"Many knowledgeable people
have called for this tackle to be

abolished to allow ball players such as Strachan to demonstrate their skills without living in constant fear of being hammered

out there are a lot of players now in the game who wouldn't last until half-time!"

Ferguson has made an astonishing plea for protection for Strachan, who, it must be readily

Strachan feels the effect of another tough tackle, in this case against Motherwell in the Scottish Cup. It is this sort of treatment which angers Aberdeen boss Alex Ferguson



admitted, comes in for some 'extra-special' treatment from some rigorous defences.
In the Scottish Cup Semi-Final clashes with St. Mirren recently Billy Abercromby, of the Paisley side, was booked in the early minutes for a glaring foul on the simble Strachan

minutes for a giaring foul on the nimble Strachan. In the second-half Strachan neatly sidestepped his marker again and was brutally hacked to the ground. This time the referee, with little option, had to immediately order off

Abercromby.
Critics of Strachan say he

over-reacts and tries to get opponents in trouble with the referee as his way of retaliation. Ferguson blasts: "That's ridiculous! It certainly wasn't Gordon's fault that Abercromby

Gordon's fault that Abercromby was sent off in our Semi-Final.
"Even St. Mirren manager Ricky McFarlane told me after that particular game that Strachan didn't get enough protection.
"Listen, the player is one of the best to emerge in Britain for the past 20 years.

past 20 years.

"He's only a little guy, weighing just ten stone two pounds, yet he still has the courage to take on players, driving straight at defences and trying to beat them with pure skill.

"Almost all the incidents happen when he has beaten his opponent.
"Over-reaction to bad tackles? It would be impossible to take the stick he gets and not react!"

Strachan is the target for the boo-brigade of rival teams. The opposing fans try to put him off his natural game by jeering his every move and, in fact, the Pittodrie player has been the victim of two on-the-field assaults by enraged supporters during games over the supporters during games over the past two years.

Threat

It's easy to see why other fans do not warm to Strachan . . . he is obviously a huge threat to their own team. Fergie says: "He always wants to get involved. He plays football to win. He challenges and fights for everything

everything.

"We could instruct Gordon not to get so involved and to simply pass the ball around — which he is perfectly capable of doing — but Scottish football would surely be the loser if that were to happen.

"I won't curtail Strachan's role. I can only hope that he is given

can only hope that he is given some protection and then we can see the player at his best."

What a shame it would be for Scottish soccer and lovers of true football if Strachan was literally allowed to be kicked out of the Premier Division.

AVE Hodgson is flying again!

Middlesbrough's speed striker reckons he is back to his best after a disastrous 12 months.

And that's good news for the Ayresome Park fans who have had little to shout about since 21-yearold Hodgson began to struggle with injuries in February of last

Since then, Middlesbrough have let slip a golden chance of a place at Wembley in the F.A. Cup Final.

They have sold three of the stars who helped them into the Sixth Round last season.

And, this term, they have faced a constant fight against relegation.

'We've had more than our share of disappointments and I've been as unhappy as anybody, particularly since my form dipped quite a bit," says Hodgson.

"I picked up a few knocks and pulls at a vital time last season and

didn't really feel 100 per cent until exactly 12 months was still time for the kids to push themselves into his World Cup thinking

But Hodgson admits: "It's too much to hope that I will be in Spain, but perhaps it might have been a bit different if I'd been in

top form in the last year.
"It would be nice if I could force myself into Mr Greenwood's 40 a nice boost after such a dismal time recently — but it's more realistic for me to look ahead to the next two World Cups.

In the meantime, Middles-brough's fans wait to see if they can hold on to Hodgson if they do

The player has been quick to kill rumours on Teesside that a clause in his lengthy contract allows him to leave if they are relegated.

But he is aware that the Second Division is no place to push international ambitions. "I've never played there and don't really fancy the idea," he says.

"I've got an open mind about the future, although I'm aware that I owe something to Mr Murdoch and the Middlesbrough fans.'

"Possibly I was coming back too quickly after injury because I was desperate to play, but now I've learned to be more patient."

But, with his return to somewhere near his peak, Hodgson was at the centre of the Ayresome Park action, publicly questioning the attitude of some of his team-mates after a defeat at Everton.
It led to a showdown meeting

with manager Bobby Murdoch and the team and Hodgson recalls: "We all had our say and cleared up

a few points.
"It's all forgotten now, but I've no regrets. It brought a few things out into the open and we were able to sort out our problems."

Dying

Now the North-East side face the dying weeks of a season which has offered little except constant struggle.

But Hodgson has a double reason for fighting to the end — he still believes Middlesbrough can stay up and he wants to remind **England boss Ron Greenwood** that he's back to his best.

Greenwood was an admirer of the Tyneside-born forward before his injury problems and proved he hadn't forgotten him last month when he picked him for the Under-21 team in Poland.

England The watched the game and saw Hodgson crown a good performance by scoring the winner near the end.

Hodgson is only aware that Greenwood stressed before the game that there

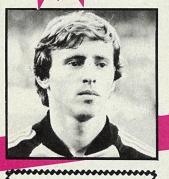




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